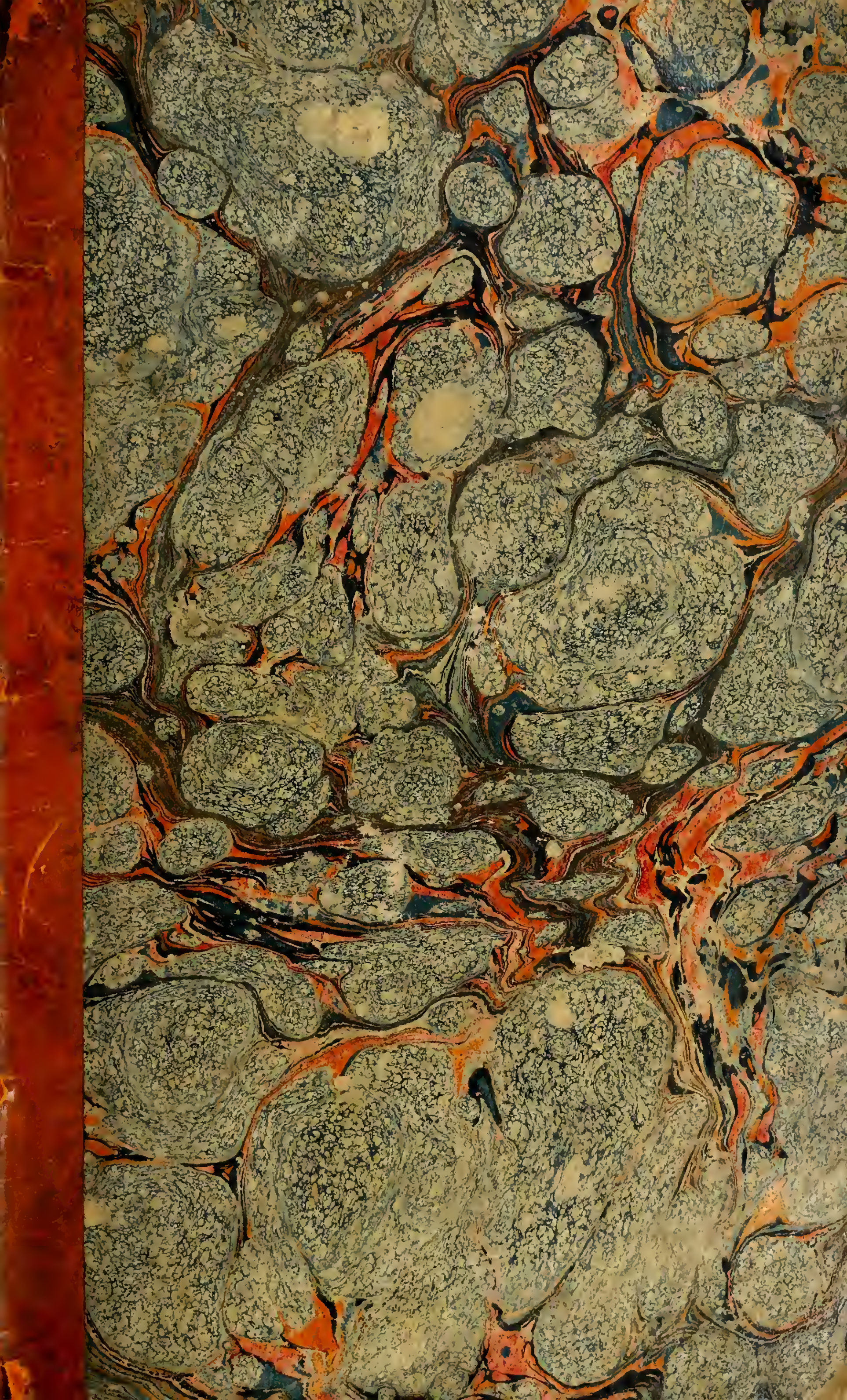

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INCLUDING THE

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THE
NAVAL AND MILITARY
HISTORY
OF THE
WARS OF ENGLAND.

FROM THE PEACE OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE TO THE DEATH OF GEORGE II.

SOON after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, a freſh cauſe of diſſenſion between Great Britain and France ſeemed to ariſe; for no ſooner were commiſſioners appointed by both crowns to meet at Paris, and compromiſe theſe diſputes, than the French employed every art of chicane to perplex and portract the negociation. They not only miſinterpreted treaties though expreſſed with the utmoſt preciſion, and perplexed the conferences with difficulties and matters foreign to the ſubject, but they carried the fineſſe of perfidy ſo far, as to produce falſe charts and maps of the country, in which the rivers and boundaries were miſplaced and miſrepreſented. The inſincerity of the French court appeared farther, in affected delays and artful objections, with reſpect to the evacuation of the neutral iſlands in the Weſt-Indies; the governors of the Britiſh plantations, in different parts of America, tranſmitted intelligence, ſoon after the concluſion of the peace, that the French had begun to make encroachments on the back of the Engliſh colonies. At length the conferences at Paris broke up, without any buſineſs having been ſettled, or any point in conteſt cleared up. The twelfth article of the treaty of Utrecht had inveſted Great Britain with the right of poſſeſſing Nova Scotia, called by the French Acadia, according to its ancient limits; and this ceſſion was confirmed by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. The Engliſh inſiſted, that the ancient limits of Nova Scotia were, the ſouthern banks of the river St. Laurence to the north, and Pentagoet to the weſt. That the French themſelves looked upon Acadia as a country of this extent, when they poſſeſſed it in 1632, was proved by a letter of Louis XIII. to the Sieurs Charniſay and La Tour, in which he regulates their juriſdictions in Acadia, and by other inconteſtible evidence. The French commiſſioners laboured to prove, upon the authority of maps and certain writers, that the ancient limits of Acadia comprehended no more than the ſouth-eaſt part of the peninſula; but theſe teſtimonies were proved to be futile and miſquoted, and the moſt accurate of the French geographers, as well as the moſt celebrated of their ancient topographical American hiſtorians, ſuch as Champlain and Denys, were brought to atteſt the preſent claims made by the Engliſh to be founded in juſtice, and the general agreement with mankind, for more than a century paſt. The claim of the Engliſh, in ſhort, was ſupported by a regular ſeries of plain and deciſive evidence, ſo that their right of poſſeſſing this diſtrict, to the excluſion of the French, was apparent. A philoſopher, who reaſons upon firſt principles, might perhaps have obſerved upon this controverſy, that the Engliſh and French were diſputing for a country, to which neither of them had any juſt pretentions: but ſuch ſentiments never mingle themſelves with the affairs of the world!

The ambition and intrigues of the French court, by which the Britiſh intereſt was invaded and diſturbed on the continent of America, had alſo extended itſelf to the Eaſt-Indies, where they endeavoured to embroil the Engliſh company with divers nabobs, or princes, who governed different parts of the peninſula within the Ganges. All theſe kingdoms, properly ſpeaking, belonged to the Mogul; but his power was ſo weakened by the laſt invaſion of Kouli Khan, in 1738, that he has not been able to aſſert his empire over this remote country; the tributary princes of which, and even the nabobs, who were originally governors appointed under their authority, have rendered themſelves independent, and exert an abſolute dominion over their reſpective territories, without acknowledging his ſuperiority either by tribute or homage. The princes, when they quarrel among themſelves, naturally have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of ſuch European powers as are ſettled in or near their dominions; and in the ſame manner the Eaſt-India companies of the European powers which happen to be at war with each other never fail to intereſt the nabobs in the diſpute.

In order to underſtand the military tranſactions of the Engliſh company in India, the reader will take notice, that immediately after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, Monſieur Dupleix, who commanded for the French in that country, began by his intrigues to ſow the ſeeds of diſſention among the nabobs, that he might be the better able to fiſh in troubled waters. Nizam Almuluck, the mogul's viceroy of Decan, having the right of nominating a governor of the Carnatic, now more generally known by the name of the nabob of Arcot, appointed Anaverdy Khan to that office in the year 1745. The viceroy dying was ſucceeded in his viceroyalty or ſubaſhip, by his ſecond ſon Nazirzing; whom the mogul confirmed. He was oppoſed in his pretenſions by his own couſin Muzapherzing, who had recourſe to the aſſiſtance of M. Dupleix, and obtained from him a reinforcement of Europeans and artillery, in conſideration of many preſents and promiſes, which he fulfilled in the ſequel. Thus reinforced, and joined by one Chunda Saib, an active Indian chief, he took the field againſt his kinſman Nazirzing, who was ſupported by a body of Engliſh troops under Colonel Lawrence. The French dreading an engagement, retired in the night; and Muzapherzing, ſeeing himſelf abandoned by all his own troops, appealed to the clemency of his couſin, who ſpared his life, but detained him as a ſtate priſoner. In this ſituation, he formed a conſpiracy againſt his kinſman's life, with Nazirzing's prime miniſter, and the nabobs of Chadupab and Candaneor, then in his camp; and the conſpirators were encouraged in their ſcheme by Dupleix and Chunda Saib, who had retired to Pondicherry. Thus ſtimulated, they murdered Nazirzing in his camp, and proclaimed Muzapherzing viceroy of Decan. In the tents of the murdered viceroy they found an immenſe treaſure, of which a great ſhare fell to Dupleix, whom Muzapherzing the uſurper at this time aſſociated in the government. By virtue of this aſſociation the Frenchman aſſumed the ſtate and formalities of an eaſten prince; and he and his colleague Muzapherzing appointed Chunda Saib nabob of Arcot; Anaverdy Khan, the late nabob, had been, in the year 1749, defeated and ſlain by Muzapherzing and Chunda Saib, with the aſſiſtance of their French auxiliaries; and his ſon Mahommed Ali Khan had put himſelf under the protection of the Engliſh at Madras, and was confirmed by Nazirzing, as his father's ſucceſſor in the nabobſhip, or government of Arcot. This government, therefore, was diſputed between Mahommed Ali Khan, appointed by the legal viceroy Nazirzing, ſupported by the Engliſh company, and Chunda Saib, nominated by the uſurper Muzapherzing, and protected by Dupleix, who commanded at Pondicherry. Muzapherzing did not long ſurvive his uſurpation. In the year 1751, the ſame nabob's who had promoted him to his kindſman's place, thinking themſelves ill-rewarded for their ſervices, fell upon him ſuddenly, routed his troops, and put him to death; and next day the chiefs of the army proclaimed Sallabatzing, brother to Nazirzing, viceroy of Decan; on the other hand, the Mogul appointed Gauzedy Khan, who was the elder brother of Sallabatzing; and this prince confirmed Mahommed Ali Khan in the government of Arcot: but the affairs of the mogul's court were then in ſuch confuſion, that he could not ſpare an army to ſupport the nomination he had made. Chunda Saib, Nabob of Arcot, having been depoſed by the Great Mogul, who placed Anaverdy Khan in his room, he reſolved to recover his government by force, and had recourſe to the French general at Pondicherry, who reinforced him with two thouſand ſepoys, or ſoldiers of the country, ſixty caffrees, and four hundred and twenty French troops, on condition that, if he proved ſucceſsful in this enterpriſe, he ſhould cede to the French the town of Velur, in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, with its dependencies, conſiſting of forty-five villages. Thus reinforced, he defeated his rival Anaverdy Khan, who loſt his life in the engagement, re-aſſumed the government of Arcot, and punctually performed the conditions which had been ſtipulated by his French allies.

Mahommed Ali Khan, at the death of his father, had fled to Tiruchirapalli, commonly called Trichinopoly, and ſolicited the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh, who favoured him with a reinforcement of money, men, and ammunition, under the conduct of Major Lawrence, a brave and experienced officer. By dint of this ſupply, he gained ſome advantages over the enemy, who were obliged to retreat; but no deciſive blow was given. Mahommed afterwards repaired in perſon to Fort St. David's to demand more powerful ſuccours, alleging that his fate was connected with the intereſt of the Engliſh company, which in time would be obliged to abandon the whole coaſt, ſhould they allow the enemy to proceed in their conqueſts. In conſequence of theſe repreſentations, he received another ſtrong reinforcement, under the command of Captain Cope; but nothing of importance was attempted, and the Engliſh auxilaries retired. Then Mahommed was attacked by the enemy, who obtained a complete victory over him. Finding it impoſſible to maintain his footing by his own ſtrength, he entered into a cloſe alliance with the Engliſh, and ceded to them ſome commercial points, which had been long in diſpute. Then they detached Captain Cope to put Tiruchirapalli in a poſture of defence; while Captain de Gingins, a Swiſs officer, marched at the head of four hundred Europeans to the nabob's aſſiſtance. The two armies, being pretty equal in ſtrength, lay encamped in ſight of each other a whole month; during which nothing happened but a few ſkirmiſhes, which generally terminated to the advantage of the Engliſh auxiliaries. In order to make a diverſion, and divide the French forces, the company reſolved to ſend a detachment into the province of Arcot; and this was one of the firſt occaſions upon which the extraordinary talents of Mr. Clive were diſplayed. He had entered into the ſervice of the Eaſt-India Company as a writer, and was conſidered as a perſon very indifferently qualified for ſucceeding in any civil ſtation of life. He now offered his ſervice in a military capacity, and actually began his march to Arcot, at the head of two hundred and ten Europeans, and five hundred ſepoys: (the ſepoys are the mercenaries of the country, who are hired as ſoldiers occaſionally by all parties.)

Such was the reſolution, ſecrecy, and diſpatch, with which he conducted this enterpriſe, that the enemy knew nothing of his motions until he was in poſſeſſion of the capital, which he took without oppoſition.

tion. The inhabitants, expecting to be plundered, offered him a large ſum to ſpare their city; but they derived their ſecurity from the generoſity and diſcretion of the conqueror. He refuſed the proffered ranſom, and iſſued a proclamation, intimating, that thoſe who were willing to remain in their houſes ſhould be protected from inſult and injury, and the reſt have leave to retire with all their effects, except proviſions, for which he promiſed to pay the full value. By this ſage conduct he conciliated the affections of the people ſo entirely, that even thoſe who quitted the place ſupplied him with exact intelligence of the enemy's deſigns, when he was beſieged in the ſequel. The town was in a little time inveſted by Rajah Saib, ſon of Chunda Saib, at the head of a numerous army, and the operations of the ſiege were conducted by European engineers. Though their approaches were retarded by the repeated and reſolute ſallies of Mr. Clive, they at length effected two breaches ſuppoſed to be practicable; and on the 14th of October, 1751, gave a general aſſault. Mr. Clive, having received intimation of their deſign, had made ſuch preparations for their reception, that they were repulſed in every quarter with great loſs, and obliged to raiſe the ſiege with the utmoſt precipitation.

This gallant Engliſhman, not contented with the reputation he had acquired from his noble defence, was no ſooner re-inforced by a detachment under Captain Kirkpatrick, from Trichinopoly, than he marched in purſuit of the enemy, whom he overtook in the plains of Arani. There, on the 3d of December, he attacked them with irreſiſtible impetuoſity; and, after an obſtinate diſpute, obtained a complete victory at a very ſmall expence. The forts of Timery, Caujeveram, and Aranie, ſurrendered to the terror of his name, rather than to the force of his arms; and he returned to Fort St. David's in triumph. He had enjoyed a very few weeks of repoſe, when he was ſummoned to the field by freſh incurſions of the enemy. In the beginning of the year 1752, he marched with a ſmall detachment to Madras, where he was joined by a re-inforcement from Bengal, the whole number not exceeding three hundred Europeans, and aſſembled a body of the natives, that he might have at leaſt the appearance of an army. With theſe he proceeded to Koveripauk, about fifteen miles from Arcot, where he found the French and Indians, conſiſting of fifteen hundred ſepoys, ſeventeen hundred horſe, and a body of natives, and one hundred and fifty Europeans, with eight pieces of cannon. Though they were advantageouſly poſted and entrenched, and the day was already far ſpent, Mr. Clive advanced againſt them with his uſual intrepidity; but the victory remained for ſome time in ſuſpence. It was now dark, and the battle doubtful, when Mr. Clive ſent round a detachment to fall on the rear of the French battery. This attack was executed with great reſolution, while the Engliſh in front entered the entrenchments with their bayonets fixed; and, though very little tinctured with diſcipline, diſplayed the ſpirit and activity of hardy veterans. This double attack diſconcerted the enemy in ſuch a manner, that they ſoon deſiſted from all oppoſition. A conſiderable carnage enſued; yet the greater part of the enemy, both horſe and foot, ſaved themſelves by flight, under cover of the darkneſs. The French to a man threw down their arms, and ſurrendered themſelves priſoners of war; and all the cannon and baggage fell into the hands of the victor.

The province of Arcot being thus cleared of the enemy, Clive with his forces returned to Fort St. David's, where he found Major Laurence juſt arrived from England, to take upon him the command of the troops in the company's ſervice. On the 18th of March this officer, accompanied by Mr. Clive, took the field, and was joined by Captain Gingins at Tiruchirapalli,

Tiruchirapalli. From hence he detached Mr. Clive with four hundred European ſoldiers, a few Mahratta horſe, and a body of ſepoys, to cut off the enemy's retreat to Pondicherry. In the courſe of this expedition he diſlodged a ſtrong body of the foe poſted at Samiaveram, and obliged Chunda Saib to throw a body of troops into a ſtrong fortified temple, or pagoda, upon the river Koleroon, which was immediately inveſted. The commanding officer, in attempting to eſcape, was ſlain with ſome others, and the reſt ſurrendered at diſcretion. They were ſtill in poſſeſſion of another fortified temple, which he alſo beſieged in form, and reduced by capitulation. Having ſubdued theſe forts, he marched directly to Volconda, whither he underſtood the French commander, d'Anteuil, had retired. He found that officer entrenched in a village, from whence he drove him with precipitation, and made himſelf maſter of the French cannon. The enemy attempted to ſave themſelves in a neighbouring fort; but the gates being ſhut againſt them by the governor, who was apprehenſive that they would be followed pell-mell by the Engliſh, Mr. Clive attacked them with great fury, and made a conſiderable ſlaughter: but, his humanity being ſhocked at this carnage, he ſent a flag of truce to the vanquiſhed, with terms of capitulation, which they readily embraced. Theſe articles imported, that d'Anteuil, and three other officers, ſhould remain priſoners on parole for one year; that the garriſon ſhould be exchanged, and the money and ſtores to be delivered to the nabob whom the Engliſh ſupported.

During theſe tranſactions Chunda Saib lay encamped with an army of thirty thouſand men at Syrinham, an iſland in the neighbourhood of Tiruchirapalli, which he longed eagerly to poſſeſs. Hither Major Laurence marched with his Indian allies, and took his meaſures ſo well, that the enemy's proviſions were entirely intercepted. Chunda Saib, in attempting to fly, was taken priſoner by the Nabob of Tanjore, an ally of the Engliſh company, who ordered his head to be ſtruck off, in order to prevent the diſputes which otherwiſe would have ariſen among the captors. The main body of the army being attacked by Major Laurence, and totally defeated, the iſland of Syrinham was ſurrendered, and about a thouſand European French ſoldiers, under the command of Mr. Law, nephew to the famous Law who ſchemed the Miſſiſſippi company, fell into the hands of the conquerors, including thirty officers, with forty pieces of cannon, and ten mortars. M. Dupleix, though exceedingly mortified by this diſaſter, reſolved to maintain the cauſe which he had eſpouſed. He proclaimed Raja Saib, the ſon of Chunda Saib, Nabob of Arcot; and afterwards pretended that he himſelf had received from the mogul ſanids or commiſſions, appointing him governor of all the Carnatic, from the river Kriſtnah to the ſea: but theſe ſanids appeared in the ſequel to be forged. In order to complete the comedy, a ſuppoſed meſſenger from Delhi was received at Pondicherry as ambaſſador from the Mogul. Dupleix, mounted on an elephant, preceded by muſic and dancing women, in the oriental manner, received in public his commiſſion from the hands of the pretended ambaſſador. He affected the eaſtern ſtate, kept his darbar or court, where he appeared ſitting croſs-legged on a ſopha, and received preſents as prince of the country from his own council, as well as from the natives. In the mean time, hoſtilities continued between the forces of the two companies, as auxiliaries to the contending nabobs. The Engliſh, under Major Kinnier, made an unſucceſsful attempt upon Gingee, a ſtrong town ſituated to the weſt of Pondicherry. Major Laurence defeated a ſtrong body of French and natives, commanded by Dupleix's nephew, M. de Kerjean, in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, and took him priſoner, together with fifteen officers: after this ſucceſs, Mr. Clive reduced the forts of Covelong and Chengalput, the laſt very ſtrong, ſituated about forty miles to the ſouthward of Madras. On the other hand, M. Dupleix intercepted at ſea Captain Schaub, with his whole Swiſs company, whom he detained priſoners at Pondicherry, although the two nations were not at war with each other. During theſe tranſactions, Sallabatzing, with a body of French under M. de Buſſy, advanced towards Aurengabad, which was the ſeat of government; but he was oppoſed by a chief of the Mahrattas, at the head of a numerous army. In the mean time, Gawzedy Khan, the elder brother of Sallabatzing, whom the mogul had appointed viceroy of Decan, took poſſeſſion of his government at Aurengabad, where, in fourteen days after his arrival, he was poiſoned by his own ſiſter. The mogul immediately appointed his ſon Schah Abadin Khan to ſucceed his father; and this prince actually raiſed an army to come and take poſſeſſion: but, the mogul's affairs requiring his preſence at Delhi, he was obliged to poſtpone his deſign, ſo that Sallabatzing was left without a competitor, and made a preſent to the French of all the Engliſh ſettlements to the northward. Thus concluded the year 1752. Next campaign was chiefly confined to the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly, where Major Laurence made ſeveral vigorous attacks upon the enemy's army, which, however, did not prove deciſive, becauſe he was ſo much out-numbered that he could never follow his blow.

However, this ſtate of warfare had produced a train of events ſo deſtructive to the intereſts of the French company, that in the year 1753 Dupleix was recalled, and M. Duveler ſent out from France to ſucceed him in the command. He concluded a convention with the Engliſh, the tendency of which was, that every thing ſhould be reſtored that had been taken by either ſince the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, only the ſucceſſes of the Engliſh procured for them a ſurrender of certain diſtricts, which were convenient for their commerce.

How much the commerce carried on by France to the eaſt was benefited by the reſtoration of peace, appears from authentic accounts of the merchandize imported at l'Orient in the year 1754, in fifteen Eaſt-India ſhips; the ſale of theſe cargoes producing one million and half ſterling money.

How pacific ſoever the ſentiments the French ſubjects might have been at this period in the Eaſt-Indies, certain it is, the deſigns of the French governors in America were altogether hoſtile, and their conduct was haſtening towards a rupture, which kindled up a bloody war in every diviſion of the globe.

The ambition of France had ſpread deſolation over a great part of Europe, and the leagues formed to check the power of that formidable monarch had drained the moſt conſiderable kingdoms of their beſt blood as well as exhauſted their treaſures. Theſe violent and repeated conflicts had iſſued in nothing more than impoveriſhing and weakening each contending ſtate. But the general tranquillity which followed theſe commotions was not deſtined to continue long; a new and more remote cauſe of miſunderſtanding was now ariſing from the weſtern horizon. At firſt it appeared like a ſmall ſpeck forboding little miſchief, but ſoon the gathering ſtorm aſſumed a more formidable aſpect, until at length it had no other limits than thoſe of the globe itſelf. America, the late reward of European induſtry, after it had groaned under the cruelty of its foreign lords, was at length, by no very ſingular chain of contingencies, deſtined to become the cauſe of conteſt among Europeans themſelves. The Engliſh ſettled in America more as their aſylum from perſecution than to colonize it from principles of policy and views of ſtate; and, as they were at firſt ſettled more by the connivance than countenance of the mother country, ſo they advanced in growth and conſequence from their natural vigour more than from any derived ſtrength. But when England began to breathe after the civil commotions that had threatened its ſubverſion, and when the conſtitution became better eſtabliſhed at the revolution, and the commerce of this country began to be more widely extended, the American colonies then were thought worthy the ſerious attention of the Britiſh legiſlature. France on the other hand, had paid the leaſt attention of any European power to remote colonies; the politics of that government ſeemed ſolely bent to give laws to Europe; the extenſion of commerce was ſcarcely at all attended to. Canada had been diſcovered by ſome French navigators, and an excluſive charter had been granted to private adventurers for carrying on the trade of that New World, but very little national benefit accrued from thence. The mouths of the Miſſiſſippi were pretended to be firſt explored by ſome other adventurers of the ſame nation, and a ſettlement was made upon the eaſtern banks of that immenſe river: many years elapſed before much ſtrength or importance were acquired to either of theſe colonies, occupying the two extremities of the continent of North America; till at length the traders of Canada in proſecuting their intercourſe with the Indians, inhabiting to the ſouth-weſt of their ſettlements on the great lakes, began to trace the courſe of Ohio, and found it diſcharge itſelf, into the Miſſiſſippi, which preſented to their view an eaſy means of communication between the northern and ſouthern parts of that immenſe continent; the enterprizing ſpirit of the French nation was rouſed by the majeſty of the object which opened to their view; new ſettlers were ſhipped off in great numbers, and a national phrenzy prevailed for ſome time, from the fulleſt preſumption, that immenſe treaſures were contained in the bowels of the earth. Such is the weakneſs of the human mind, that it can never attentively view a new object that ſtrikes the ſenſes with a proſpect of advantage, but it preſently becomes giddy by beholding it, and ſets no bounds to its expectations. In the ſettling of the Miſſiſſippi, the wealth of the eaſtern and weſtern treaſures already diſcovered were to be ſurpaſſed. But it happened fortunately enough for the French nation, as well as for all Europe, that theſe gold and ſilver mountains were never traced; however, a trade with the Indians was carried on, which, as it promoted induſtry, and tended to better the circumſtances of thoſe concerned in it, without ſupplying them with ſuperfluous ſpecie, was highly beneficial. The French, finding the ſea-coaſts from Georgia quite to Nova Scotia occupied by the Engliſh, particularly directed their attention to conciliate the affections of the Indians, with whom they bartered the manufactures of Europe for furs and various ſkins. Nothing more contributed to cement the friendly intercourſe with theſe people than the conduct of the miſſionaries that were diſperſed among them. The apparent ſanctity and regularity of their lives, the doctrines which they inculcated, founded on the benevolent principles of the goſpel, could not but be attended to with ſatisfaction by theſe unſophiſticated Indians; having thus gained their confidence and friendſhip, the uſe, or rather abuſe that they made of it, deſtroyed the merit of all their former exertions. As France had comparatively a very feeble footing in North America, it was neceſſary to ſtrengthen themſelves by Indian alliances; and the moſt effectual means of doing it was to render the Engliſh as odious as poſſible; for which purpoſe, when the miſſionaries would give theſe people ſome idea of the principles of Chriſtianity, whenever they dwelt on the life and ſufferings of Jeſus Chriſt, they would repreſent the Engliſh as the wicked Jews who crucified their ſaviour; thus perverting the purity of religion to anſwer the baſeſt purpoſes of worldly policy.

Theſe ſecret practices were ſoon followed by more open acts of violence on the back of the Engliſh ſettlements. They erected a chain of forts extending ſeveral hundred miles; theſe formed a regular communication behind the Britiſh ſettlements, from Canada to Louiſiana, and, as they were unqueſtionably encroachments on the poſſeſſions of the Engliſh, could not fail to ſpread the moſt ſerious apprehenſions through the colonies, who conſidered theſe faſtneſſes as made to facilitate the reduction of the whole continent, as ſoon as their enemy's ſtrength ſhould be found adequate to their deſigns. How much the Engliſh-Americans abhorred a French neighbourhood has been ſeen in their gallant attack upon Cape Breton, nor were they backward on this occaſion to repreſent to the Britiſh miniſtry the full extent of their fears. The government of England having received nothing but evaſive anſwers from the court of France, touching the complaints that were made of the encroachments in America, diſpatched orders to all the governors of that country to repel force by force, and drive the French from their ſettlements on the river Ohio. Accordingly, the provinces of Virginia and Pennſylvania took this important affair into their conſideration; but while they deliberated, the French vigorouſly proſecuted their deſigns on the other ſide of the mountains. They ſurpriſed Log's-town, which the Virginians had built upon the Ohio; made themſelves maſter of the Block-houſe and Truck-houſe, where they found ſkins and other commodities to the amount of twenty thouſand pounds, and deſtroyed all the Britiſh traders, except two who found means to eſcape. At the ſame time, M. de Contrecœur, with a thouſand men, and eighteen pieces of cannon, arrived in three hundred canoes from Venango, a fort they had raiſed on the banks of the Ohio, and reduced by ſurpriſe a Britiſh fort which the Virginians had built on the forks of the Monangahela, that runs into the ſame river.

Theſe hoſtilities were followed by divers ſkirmiſhes between the people of the two nations, which were fought with various ſucceſs. At length the governors of the Engliſh ſettlements received orders from England to form a political confederacy, for their mutual defence: and the governor of New York was directed to confer with the chiefs of the ſix nations, with a view to detach them from the French intereſt by dint of promiſe and preſents of value, ſent over for that purpoſe. A congreſs was accordingly appointed at Albany, to which place the governor of New York repaired, accompanied by commiſſioners from all the other Britiſh ſettlements: but a very ſmall number of Indians arrived, and even theſe ſeemed to be indifferent to the advances and exhortations that were made by the Engliſh orator. The truth is, the French had artfully weaned them from their attachment to the ſubjects of Great Britain. Nevertheleſs they accepted the preſents, renewed their treaties with the King of England, and even demanded his aſſiſtance in driving the French from the poſts and poſſeſſions they had uſurped within the Indian territories. It was in conſequence of the meaſures here taken, that Colonel Waſhington was detached from Virginia with four hundred men, and occupied a poſt on the banks of the river Ohio, where he threw up ſome works, and erected a kind of occaſional fort, in hopes of being able to defend himſelf in that ſituation, until he ſhould be joined by a reinforcement from New-York, which, however, did not arrive. While he remained in this ſituation, De Viller, a French commander, at the head of nine hundred men, being on his march to diſlodge Waſhington, detached one Jamonville, an inferior officer, with a ſmall party, and a formal ſummons to Colonel Waſhington, requiring him to quit the fort, which he pretended was built on ground belonging to the French, or their allies. So little regard was paid to this intimation, that the Engliſh fell upon this party, and, as the French affirm, without the leaſt provocation, either ſlew or took the whole detachment. De Viller, incenſed at theſe unprovoked hoſtilities, marched up to the attack, which Waſhington for ſome time ſuſtained under manifold diſadvantages. At length, however, he ſurrendered the fort upon capitulation, for the performance of which he left two officers as hoſtages in the hands of the French; and in his retreat was terribly harraſſed by the Indians, who plundered his baggage, and maſſacred his people. This event was no ſooner known in England, than the Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris received directions to complain of it to the French miniſtry, as an open violation of the peace; but this repreſentation had no effect.

Both nations by this time foreſaw that a rupture would be inevitable, and each reſolved to make ſuitable preparations. France continued to ſend reinforcements of men, and ſupplies of ammunition to Quebec, for the proſecution of her ambitious projects; and the miniſtry of Great Britain tranſmitted ſalutary cautions to the governors of the provinces in North America, exhorting them to join their endeavours for repelling the incurſions of the enemy. Such an union as ſeemed neceſſary for their common preſervation was not eaſily effected. The different colonies were divided by different views and intereſts, both religious and political: beſides, every ſettlement was diſtracted into factions, formed by the demagogues of the aſſembly: in other words, an oppoſition like that in parliament, and a continual ſtruggle between the liberties of the people and the prerogative of the proprietor, whether ſovereign or ſubject. While the Britiſh colonies in America, were, by theſe diviſions, in a great meaſure diſabled from making vigorous efforts againſt the common enemy, the adminiſtration at home began to exert itſelf for their defence. Officers were appointed for two regiments, conſiſting of two battalions each, to be raiſed in America, and commanded by Sir William Pepperel and Governor Shirley, who had enjoyed the ſame command in the laſt war; and a body of troops was deſtined for the ſame ſervice.

On the 14th of November, 1754, the King of Great Britain opened the ſeſſion of parliament with an harangue, which intimated nothing of an approaching rupture. He ſaid, that the general ſtate of affairs in Europe had undergone very little alteration ſince their laſt meeting; that he had lately received the ſtrongeſt aſſurances from his good brother the King of Spain of friendſhip and confidence, which he would cultivate with harmony and good faith. He probably avoided mentioning the encroachments of France, that he might ſupply no handle for debates on the addreſs, which was carried in both houſes almoſt without oppoſition. The government ſeemed determined to humble the inſolence of the French councils; and this diſpoſition was ſo agreeable to the people in general, that they grudged no expence, and heartily concurred with the demands of the miniſtry. The commons granted for the ſervice of the enſuing year 4,073,729l. one million of that ſum expreſsly given for enabling his majeſty to augment his forces by land and ſea; 32.000l. were allotted as a ſubſidy to the King of Poland, and 20,000l. to the Elector of Bavaria. Theſe gratifications met with little or no oppoſition in the committee of ſupply; becauſe it was taken for granted, that, in caſe of a rupture, France would endeavour to avail herſelf of her ſuperiority by land, by invading his Britannic majeſty's German dominions; and therefore it might be neceſſary to ſecure the aſſiſtance of ſuch allies on the continent. That they prognoſticated aright, with reſpect to the deſigns of that ambitious power, will ſoon appear in the courſe of this hiſtory; which will alſo demonſtrate how little dependence is to be placed upon the profeſſed attachment of ſubſidary princes.

Mr. Pitt, the paymaſter-general of the forces, brought in a bill, which will ever remain a ſtanding monument of his humanity. The poor diſabled veterans, who enjoyed the penſion of Chelſea Hoſpital, were ſo iniquitouſly oppreſſed by a ſet of miſcreants, who ſupplied them with money per advance, at the moſt exorbitant rates of uſury, that many of them, with their families, were in danger of ſtarving; and the intention of government in granting ſuch a comfortable ſubſiſtence was in a great meaſure defeated. Mr. Pitt, perceiving that this evil originally flowed from the delay of the firſt payment, which the penſioner could not touch till the expiration of a whole year after he had been put upon the liſt, removed this neceſſity of borrowing, by providing in the bill, that half a year's penſion ſhould be advanced half a year before it is due; and the practice of uſury was effectually prevented by a clauſe, enacting, that all contracts ſhould be void by which any penſion might be mortgaged. This humane regulation was unanimouſly approved, and, having paſſed through both houſes with uncommon expedition, received the royal aſſent.

The attention of the legiſlature was chiefly turned upon the conduct of France, which preſerved no medium, but ſeemed intent upon ſtriking ſome important blow, that might ſerve as a declaration of war. At Breſt, and other ports in that kingdom, the French were employed in equipping a powerful armament, and made no ſcruple to own it was intended for North America. Towards the latter end of March, Sir Thomas Robinſon, ſecretary of ſtate, brought a meſſage from the king to the parliament, intimating, that his majeſty having at the beginning of the ſeſſion declared his principal object was to preſerve the public tranquillity, and at the ſame time to protect thoſe poſſeſſions which conſtitute one great ſource of the commerce and wealth of his kingdoms, he now found it neceſſary to acquaint the houſe of commons, that the preſent ſituation of affairs made it requiſite to augment his forces by ſea and land, and to take ſuch other meaſures as might beſt tend to preſerve the general peace of Europe, and to ſecure the juſt rights and poſſeſſions of his crown in America, as well as to repel any attempts whatſoever that might be made to ſupport or countenance any deſigns which ſhould be formed againſt his majeſty and his kingdoms. In anſwer to this meſſage a very warm and affectionate addreſs was preſented to his majeſty; and it was on this occaſion that the million was granted for augmenting his forces by ſea and land. The court of Verſailles, notwithſtanding the aſſiduity and diſpatch which they were exerting in equipping armaments, and embarking troops, for the ſupport of their ambitious ſchemes in America, ſtill continued to amuſe the Britiſh miniſtry with general declarations, that no hoſtility was intended, nor the leaſt infringement of the treaty.

In the mean time, however, undoubted intelligence arrived in England, that a powerful armament was ready to ſail from Breſt and Rochefort. The government of Great Britain rouſed by this information, immediately took the moſt expeditious methods for equipping a ſquadron; and towards the latter end of April, 1755, Admiral Boſcawen ſailed with eleven ſhips of the line and one frigate, having on board a conſiderable number of land-forces, to attend the motions of the enemy: but more certain and particular intelligence arriving ſoon after, touching the ſtrength of the French fleet, which conſiſted of twenty-five ſhips of the line, beſides frigates and tranſports, with a great quantity of warlike ſtores, and four thouſand regular troops, commanded by the Baron Dieſkau, Admial Holbourne was detached with ſix ſhips of the line, and and one frigate, to reinforce Mr. Boſcawen; and a great number of capital ſhips were put in commiſſion. In the beginning of May the French fleet, commanded by Mr. Macnamara, an officer of Iriſh extraction, ſailed from Breſt, directing his courſe to North America; but after having proceeded beyond the chops of the Engliſh channel, he returned with nine of the capital ſhips, while the reſt of the armament continued their courſe, under the direction of M. Bois de la Mothe.

On the 25th of April, the king went to the houſe of lords, where, after giving the royal aſſent to the bills then depending, his majeſty put an end to the ſeſſion of parliament by a ſpeech, in which he acquainted the two houſes, that the zeal they had ſhewn for ſupporting the honour, rights, and poſſeſſions of his crown, had afforded him the greateſt ſatisfaction: that he had religiouſly adhered to the ſtipulations of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and made it his care not to injure or offend any power whatſoever; but that he never could entertain a thought of purchaſing the name of peace at the expence of ſuffering encroachments upon, or of yielding up, what juſtly belonged to Great Britain, either by ancient poſſeſſion, or by ſolemn treaties: that, if reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation could be agreed upon, he would be ſatisfied, and, at all events, rely on the juſtice of his cauſe, the effectual ſupport of his people, and the protection of Divine Providence. The parliament was then prorogued to the 27th of May.

Whilſt all Europe was in ſuſpenſe about the fate of the Engliſh and French ſquadrons, preparations for a vigorous ſea war were going forward in England with an unparallelled ſpirit and ſucceſs. Still the French court flattered itſelf that Great Britain, out of tenderneſs to his majeſty's German dominions, would abſtain from hoſtilities. Mirepoix, the French ambaſſador, continued to have frequent conferences with the Britiſh miniſtry, who made no ſecret that their admirals, particularly Boſcawen, had orders to attack the French ſhips wherever they ſhould meet them. Mirepoix declared,

clared, that his maſter would conſider the firſt gun fired at ſea in an hoſtile manner, as a declaration of war. This menace, far from intimidating the Engliſh, animated them to redouble their preparations for war.

Admiral Boſcawen, with eleven ſhips of the line and a frigate, having taken on-board two regiments at Plymouth, ſailed from thence on the 27th of April for the banks of Newfoundland, and, in a few days after his arrival there, the French fleet from Breſt came to the ſame ſtation, under the command of M. Bois de la Mothe. But the thick fog which prevail upon theſe coaſts, eſpecially at that time of the year, kept the two armaments from ſeeing each other; and part of the French ſquadron eſcaped up the river St. Lawrence, whilſt another part of them went round, and got into the ſame river through the ſtraits of Belleiſle, by a way which was never known to be attempted before by ſhips of the line. However, whilſt the Engliſh fleet lay off Cape Race, which is the ſouthernmoſt point of Newfoundland, and was thought to be the moſt proper ſituation for intercepting the enemy, two French ſhips, the Alcide, of ſixty-four guns, and the Lys, pierced for ſixty-four guns, but mounting only twenty-two, having eight companies of land-forces on-board, being ſeparated from the reſt of their fleet in the fog, fell in with the Dunkirk, Captain Howe, and the Defiance, Captain Andrews, two ſixty-guns ſhips of the Engliſh ſquadron; and after a ſmart engagement, which laſted ſome hours, and in which Captain (afterwards Lord) Howe behaved with the greateſt ſkill and intrepidity, were both taken, with ſeveral conſiderable officers and engineers, and about 30,000l. in money. Though the capture of theſe ſhips, from which the commencement of the war (June 10, 1755) may in fact be dated, fell greatly ſhort of what was hoped for from this expedition; yet when the news reached England, it was of infinite ſervice to the public credit of every kind, and animated the whole nation, who now ſaw plainly that the government was determined to keep no farther meaſures with the French, but juſtly to repel force by force, and put a ſtop to their ſending more men and arms to invade the property of the Engliſh in America, as they had hitherto done with impunity.

On the 21ſt of June, Boſcawen was joined by admiral Holbourne, and the ſame day the fleet came within a mile of Louiſbourg harbour, and diſcovered that part of the French fleet was ſafe in that port. So that, after cruiſing ſome time in thoſe ſeas, the fleet returned to England; but the Eſperance, a French ſhip of ſeventy-four guns, was taken in her return, by the Oxford man of war, of fifty guns, Captain Stevens, after an engagement of three hours.

No ſooner was the tranſaction in America known in Europe, than the Duke de Mirepoix, the French ambaſſador at the court of London, ſet out for France, and the Engliſh miniſter at that court was recalled: however, neither nation proceeded to an open declaration of war, although the Britiſh navy was let looſe on the French merchantmen with as little reſerve as if war had been actually declared. How far ſuch a meaſure can be juſtified by the law of nations, is a matter which but too nearly concerns us as a people. The proceedings of the French in America, the large ſupplies of land-forces and warlike ſtores which they were tranſmitting thither, certainly warranted every ſtep that was taken to oppoſe ſuch proceedings, and to intercept ſuch ſupplies; but it was ſurely a wanton act of outrage to commit depredations in Europe on the French merchant ſhips, who might juſtly plead the faith of treaties and the eſtabliſhed laws of civilized ſocieties for their ſecurity and protection; the conteſt then properly lay between the two crowns; and acts of hoſtilities on the ſeas ought ſurely to have been confined to the ſhips of war of both nations, and to ſuch of them only as were employed in the cauſe of diſpute; to extend acts of hoſtility beyond that ſpecific boundary without

out a declaration of war, muſt be conſidered at leaſt, as ſhewing too little regard to the important and humane view of maintaining if poſſible the bonds of peace; but to ſeize the unoffending merchantmen was a meaſure unworthy a great and generous nation.

In the beginning of this year the aſſembly of Maſſachuſett's Bay in New England paſſed an act, prohibiting all correſpondence with the French at Louiſbourg; and early in the ſpring they raiſed a body of troops, which was tranſported to Nova Scotia, to aſſiſt Lieutenant-governor Laurence in driving the French from the encroachments they had made upon that province. Accordingly, towards the end of May, the governor ſent a large detachment of troops, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Monckton, upon this ſervice; and three frigates and a ſloop were diſpatched up the bay of Fundy, under the command of Captain Rous, to give their aſſiſtance by ſea. The troops, upon their arrival at the river Maſſaguaſh, found the paſſage ſtopped by a large number of regular forces, rebel-neutrals, or Acadians, and Indians, four hundred and fifty of whom occupied a block-houſe, with cannon mounted on their ſide of the river; and the reſt were poſted within a ſtrong breaſt-work of timber, thrown up by way of outwork to the block-houſe. The Engliſh provincials attacked this place with ſuch ſpirit, that the enemy were obliged to fly, and leave them in poſſeſſion of the breaſt-work; then the garriſon in the block-houſe deſerted it, and left the paſſage of the river free. From thence Colonel Monckton advanced to the French fort of Beauſejour, which he inveſted, as far at leaſt as the ſmall number of his troops would permit, on the 12th of June; and after four days bombardment obliged it to ſurrender, though the French had twenty-ſix pieces of cannon mounted, and plenty of ammunition, and the Engliſh had not yet placed a ſingle cannon upon their batteries. The garriſon was ſent to Louiſbourg, on condition of not bearing arms in America for the ſpace of ſix months; and the Acadians, who had joined the French, were pardoned, on conſideration of their having been forced into that ſervice. Colonel Monckton, after putting a garriſon into this place, and changing its name to that of Cumberland, the next day attacked and reduced the other French fort upon the river Gaſpereau which runs into Bay Verte; where he likewiſe found a large quantity of proviſions and ſtores of all kinds, that being the chief magazine for ſupplying the French Indians and Arcadians with arms, ammunition, and other neceſſaries. He then diſarmed theſe laſt, to the number of fifteen thouſand; and in the mean time, Captain Rous with his ſhips ſailed to the mouth of the river St. John, to attack the new fort the French had erected there; but they ſaved him that trouble, by abandoning it upon his appearance, after having burſt their cannon, blown up their magazine, and deſtroyed, as far as they had time, all the works they had lately raiſed. The Engliſh had but twenty men killed, and about the ſame number wounded, in the whole of this expedition, the ſucceſs of which ſecured the tranquillity of Nova Scotia.

While the New Englanders were thus employed in reducing the French in Nova Scotia, preparations were made in Virginia for attacking them upon the Ohio. A fort was built, which was likewiſe called fort Cumberland, and a camp formed at Wills's Creek. On the 14th of January this year, Major-general Braddock, with Colonel Dunbar's and Colonel Halket's regiments of foot, ſailed from Cork, in Ireland, for Virginia, where they all landed ſafe before the end of February. This general might conſequently have entered upon action early in the ſpring, had he not been unfortunately delayed by the Virginian contractors for the army, who, when he was ready to march, had neither provided a ſufficient quantity of proviſions for his troops, nor a competent number of carriages for his army. This error, in the very beginning of the expedition, whether owing to an injudicious preference given to the Virginians in the lucrative job of ſupplying theſe troops, or to any other cauſe, delayed the march of the army for ſome weeks, during which it was in the utmoſt diſtreſs for neceſſaries of all kinds; and would probably have defeated the expedition entirely for that ſummer, had not ſome gentlemen in Pennſylvania, being applied to in this exigency, amply made up for the deficiencies, and the troops were by this means ſupplied with every thing they wanted. Another, and ſtill more fatal error was committed in the choice of the commander for this expedition. Major-general Braddock, who was appointed to it, was undoubtedly a man of courage, and expert in all the punctilios of a review, having been brought up in the Engliſh guards; but he was naturally very haughty, poſitive, and difficult of acceſs; qualities ill ſuited to the temper of the people amongſt whom he was to command. His extreme ſeverity in matters of diſcipline had rendered him unpopular among the ſoldiers; and the ſtrict military education in which he had been trained from his youth, and which he prided himſelf on ſcrupulouſly following, made him hold the American militia in great contempt, becauſe they could not go through their exerciſe with the ſame dexterity and regularity as a regiment of guards in Hyde Park, little knowing, or indeed being able to form any idea of the difference between the European manner of fighting, and an American expedition through woods, deſerts, and moraſſes. His conceit of his own abilities made him diſdain to aſk the opinion of any under his command; and the Indians, who would have been his ſafeſt guards againſt this danger in particular, were ſo diſguſted by the haughtineſs of his behaviour, that moſt of them forſook his banners. Under theſe diſadvantages he began his march from Fort Cumberland on the 10th of June, at the head of about two thouſand two hundred men, for the Meadows, where Colonel Waſhington was defeated the year before. Upon his arrival there, he was informed that the French at Fort Du Queſne, which had lately been built on the ſame river, near its confluence with the Monangahela, expected a reinforcement of five hundred regular troops: therefore, that he might march with the greater diſpatch, he left Colonel Dunbar, with eight hundred men, to bring up the proviſions, ſtores, and heavy baggage, as faſt as the nature of the ſervice would permit; and with the other twelve hundred, together with ten pieces of cannon, and the neceſſary ammunition and proviſions, he marched on with ſo much expedition, that he ſeldom took any time to reconnoitre the woods or thickets he was to paſs through; as if the nearer he approached the enemy the farther he was removed from danger.

On the 8th of July he encamped within ten miles of Fort Du Queſne. Though Colonel Dunbar was then near forty miles behind him, and his officers, particularly Sir Peter Halket, earneſtly entreated him to proceed with caution, and to employ the friendly Indians who were with him, by way of advance guard, in caſe of ambuſcade; yet he reſumed his march the next day, without ſo much as endeavouring to obtain any intelligence of the ſituation or diſpoſition of the enemy, or even ſending out any ſcouts to viſit the woods and thickets on both ſides of him, as well as in front. With this careleſſneſs he was advancing, when, about noon, he was ſaluted with a general fire upon his front, and all along his left flank, from an enemy ſo artfully concealed behind the trees and buſhes, that not a man of them could be ſeen. The vanguard immediately fell back upon the main body, and in an inſtant the panic and confuſion became general; ſo that moſt of the troops fled with great precipitation, notwithſtanding all that their officers, ſome of whom behaved very gallantly, could do to ſtop their career. As to Braddock himſelf, inſtead of ſcouring the thickets and buſhes from whence the fire came, with grape-ſhot from the ten pieces of cannon he had with him, or ordering flanking parties of his Indians to advance againſt the enemy, he obſtinately remained on the ſpot where he was, and gave orders for the few brave officers and men who ſtaid with him, to form regularly and advance. Meanwhile his men fell thick about him, and almoſt all his officers were ſingled out, one after another, and killed or wounded; for the Indians, who always take aim when they fire, and aim chiefly at the officers, diſtinguiſhed them by their dreſs. At laſt, the general, whoſe obſtinacy ſeemed to increaſe with the danger, after having had ſome horſes ſhot under him, received a muſket ſhot through the right arm and lungs, of which he died in a few hours, having been carried off the field by the bravery of Lieutenant-colonel Gage, and another of his officers. When he dropped, the confuſion of the few that remained turned into a downright and very diſorderly flight acroſs a river which they had juſt paſſed, though no enemy appeared, or attempted to attack them. All the artillery, ammunition, and baggage of the army were left to the enemy, and among the reſt, the general's cabinet, with all his letters and inſtructions, which the French court afterwards made great uſe of in their printed memorials or manifeſtoes. The loſs of the Engliſh in this unhappy affair amounted to ſeven hundred men. Their officers, in particular, ſuffered much more than the ordinary proportion of battles in Europe. Sir Peter Halket fell by the very firſt fire, at the head of his regiment; and the general's ſecretary, ſon to Governor Shirley, was killed ſoon after. Neither the number of men which the enemy had in this engagement, nor the loſs which they ſuſtained, could be ſo much as gueſſed at: but the French afterwards gave out, that their number did not, in the whole, exceed four hundred men, moſtly Indians; and that their loſs was quite inconſiderable, as it probably was, becauſe they lay concealed in ſuch a manner that the Engliſh knew not whither to point their muſkets. The panic of theſe laſt continued ſo long, that they never ſtopped till they met the rear diviſion; and even then they infected thoſe troops with their terrors; ſo that the army retreated without ſtopping, till they reached Fort Cumberland, though the enemy did not ſo much as attempt to purſue, nor even appear in ſight, either in the battle, or after the defeat. On the whole, this was perhaps the moſt extraordinary victory that ever was obtained, and the fartheſt flight that ever was made.

Had the ſhattered remains of this army continued at Fort Cumberland, and fortified themſelves there, as they might eaſily have done during the reſt of the ſummer, they would have been ſuch a check upon the French and their ſcalping Indians, as would have prevented many of thoſe ravages that were committed in the enſuing winter upon the weſtern borders of Virginia and Pennſylvania; but, inſtead of taking that prudent ſtep, their commander left only their ſick and wounded at that fort, under the protection of two companies of the provincial militia, poſted there by way of garriſon, and the reſt were ordered away to Albany, in New York, by General Shirley, on whom the chief command of the troops in America had devolved by the death of Braddock. Virginia, Maryland, and Pennſylvania, were by theſe means left entirely to take care of themſelves, which they might have done effectually, had they been united in their councils: but the uſual diſputes, between their governors and aſſemblies, defeated every ſalutary plan that was propoſed.

Our colonies to the north of Pennſylvania were active, and more ſucceſsful in their preparations for war. New York boldly reſolved upon offenſive meaſures, which, when practicable, are always the ſafeſt; and two expeditions, one againſt the French fort at Crown Point, and the other againſt their fort at Niagara, between the lakes of Ontario and Erie, were ſet on foot at the ſame time. The former of theſe expeditions was appointed to be executed under the command of General Johnſon, a native of Ireland, who had long reſided on the Mohock river, in the weſtern parts of New York, where he had acquired a conſiderable eſtate, and was univerſally beloved, not only by the inhabitants, but alſo by the neighbouring Indians, whoſe language he had learnt, and whoſe affections he had gained by his humanity towards them. The expedition againſt Niagara was commanded by General Shirley himſelf.

The rendezvous of the troops for both theſe expeditions was appointed to be at Albany, where moſt of them arrived before the end of June: but the artillery, batteaux, proviſions, and other neceſſaries for the attempt upon Crown Point, could not be prepared till the 8th of Auguſt, when General Johnſon ſet out with them from Albany for the Carrying-place from Hudſon's river to Lake George. There the troops had already arrived, under the command of Major-general Lyman, and conſiſted of between five and ſix thouſand men, beſides Indians, raiſed by the government of Boſton, Connecticut, New Hampſhire, Rhode Iſland, and New York. Every thing was then prepared as faſt as poſſible for a march; and towards the end of the month, General Johnſon advanced about fourteen miles forward with his troops, and encamped in a very ſtrong ſituation, covered on each ſide by a thick wooded ſwamp, by Lake George in his rear, and by a breaſt-work of trees, cut down for that purpoſe, in his front. Here he reſolved to wait the arrival of his batteaux, and afterwards to proceed to Ticonderoga, at the other end of the lake, from whence it was but about fifteen miles to the fort at the ſouth end of Lake Corlaer, or Champlain, called Fort

Frederic by the French, and by us Crown Point. Whilſt he was thus encamped, ſome of his Indian ſcouts, of which he took care to ſend out numbers along both ſides and to the farther end of Lake George, brought him intelligence that a conſiderable number of the enemy were then on their march from Ticonderoga, by way of the ſouth bay, towards the fortified encampment, ſince called Fort Edward, which General Lyman had built at the Carrying-place; and in which four or five hundred of the New Hampſhire and New York men had been left as a garriſon. Upon this information General Johnſon ſent two expreſſes, one after the other, to Colonel Blanchard, their commander, with orders to call in all his out-parties, and to keep his whole force within the entrenchments. About twelve o'clock at night, thoſe who had been ſent upon the ſecond expreſs returned with an account of their having ſeen the enemy within four miles of the camp at the Carrying-place, which they ſcarcely doubted their having by that time attacked. Important as the defence of this place was for the ſafety of the whole army, and imminent as the danger ſeemed to be, it does not appear that the general then called any council of war, or reſolved upon any thing for its relief: but early the next morning he called a council, wherein it was unadviſedly reſolved to detach a thouſand men, with a number of Indians, to intercept, or, as the general's expreſſion was in his letter, to *catch* the enemy in their retreat, either as victors, or as defeated in their deſign. Accordingly between eight and nine in the morning a thouſand men, with two hundred Indians, were detached under the command of Colonel Williams: but they had not been gone two hours, when thoſe in the camp began to hear a cloſe firing, at about three or four miles diſtance, as they judged; as it approached nearer and nearer, they rightly ſuppoſed that their detachment was overpowered, and retreating towards the camp;

which was ſoon confirmed by ſome fugitives, and preſently after by whole companies, who fled back in great confuſion. In a very ſhort time after, the enemy appeared marching in regular order up to the centre of the camp, where the conſternation was ſo great, that, if they had attacked the breaſt-work directly, they might probably have thrown all into confuſion, and obtained an eaſy victory; but, fortunately for the Engliſh, they halted for ſome time about an hundred and fifty yards diſtance, and from thence began their attack with platoon firing, too far off to do much hurt, eſpecially againſt troops who were defended by a ſtrong breaſt-work. On the contrary, this ineffectual fire ſerved only to raiſe the ſpirits of theſe laſt, who, having prepared their artillery during the time that the French halted, began to play it ſo briſkly upon the enemy, that the Canadians and Indians in their ſervice fled immediately into the woods on each ſide of the camp, and there ſquatted under buſhes, or ſkulked behind trees, from whence they continued firing with very little execution, moſt of their ſhot being intercepted by the brakes and thickets; for they never had the courage to advance to the verge of the wood. Baron Dieſkau, who commanded the French, being thus left alone, with his regular troops, at the front of the camp, finding he could not make a cloſe attack upon the centre with his ſmall number of men, moved firſt to the left, and then to the right, at both which places he endeavoured to force a paſſage, but was repulſed, being unſupported by the irregulars. Inſtead of retreating, as he ought in prudence to have done, he ſtill continued his platoon and buſh-firing till four o'clock in the afternoon, during which time his regular troops ſuffered greatly by the fire from the camp, and were at laſt thrown into confuſion; which was no ſooner perceived by General Johnſon's men, than they, without waiting for orders, leaped over their breaſt-work, attacked the enemy on all ſides, and, after killing and taking a conſiderable number of them, entirely diſperſed the reſt. The French, whoſe numbers, at the beginning of this engagement, amounted to about two thouſand men, including two hundred grenadiers, eight hundred Canadians, and the reſt Indians of different nations, had between ſeven and eight hundred men killed, and thirty taken priſoners: among the latter was Baron Dieſkau himſelf, whom they found at a little diſtance from the field of battle, dangerouſly wounded, and leaning on the ſtump of a tree for his ſupport.

Next day a detachment was ſent from Fort Edward, conſiſting of an hundred and twenty men of the New Hampſhire regiment, under Captain M‘Ginnes, as a reinforcement to the army at the camp. This party fell in with between three and four hundred men of Dieſkau's troops, near the ſpot where Colonel Williams had been defeated the day before; but M‘Ginnes, having timely notice by his ſcouts of the approach of an enemy, made ſuch a diſpoſition, that he not only repulſed the aſſailants, but defeated and entirely diſperſed them, with the loſs only of two men killed, eleven wounded, and five miſſing. He himſelf unfortunately died of the wounds he received in this engagement, a few days after he arrived at the camp with his party.

It was now judged too late in the year to proceed to the attack of Crown Point, as it would have been neceſſary, in that caſe, to build a ſtrong fort in the place where the camp then was, in order to ſecure a communication with Albany, from whence only the troops could expect to be reinforced, or ſupplied with freſh ſtores of ammunition or proviſion. They, therefore, ſet out upon their return ſoon after this engagement, having firſt erected a little ſtockaded fort, at the hither end of Lake George, in which they left a ſmall garriſon, as a future prey for the enemy; a misfortune which might eaſily have been foreſeen, becauſe this whole army, being country militia, was to be diſbanded, and return to their reſpective homes, as they actually did ſoon after their retreat to Albany. This was all the glory, all the advantage, that the Engliſh nation acquired by ſuch an expenſive expedition. But ſo little had the Engliſh been accuſtomed of late to hear of victory, that they rejoiced at this advantage, as if it had been an action of the greateſt conſequence. The general was highly applauded for his conduct, and liberally rewarded; for he was created a baronet by his majeſty, and preſented with five thouſand pounds by the parliament.

The preparations for General Shirley's expedition againſt Niagara were not only deficient, but ſhamefully ſlow; though it was well known that even the poſſibility of his ſucceſs muſt, in a great meaſure depend upon his ſetting out early in the year, as will appear to any perſon that conſiders the ſituation of our fort at Oſwego, this being the only way by which he could proceed to Niagara. Oſwego lies on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the lake Ontario, near three hundred miles almoſt due-weſt from Albany in New York. The way to it from thence, though long and tedious, is the more convenient, as the far greateſt part of it admits of water carriage, by what the inhabitants call *batteaux*, which are a kind of light flat bottomed boats, wideſt in the middle, and pointed at each end, of about fifteen hundred weight burden, and managed by two men, called batteau-men, with paddles and ſetting poles, the rivers being in many places too narrow to admit of oars. Though we had long been in poſſeſſion of fort Oſwego, and though it lay greatly expoſed to the French, particularly thoſe of Canada, upon any rupture between the two nations, we had never taken care to render it tolerably defenſible, or even to build a ſingle veſſel fit for navigating the lake: nor was this ſtrange neglect ever taken effectual notice of, till the beginning of this year, when, at the meeting which

General Braddock had in April with the governors and chief gentlemen of ſeveral of our colonies at Alexandria, in Virginia, it was reſolved to ſtrengthen both the fort and garriſon at Oſwego, and to build ſome large veſſels at that place. Accordingly a number of ſhipwrights and workmen were ſent thither in May and June. At the ſame time Captain Bradſtreet marched thither with two companies of an hundred men each, to reinforce the hundred that were there before under Captain King, to which number the garriſon had been increaſed ſince our conteſts with France began to grow ſerious. For a long time before, not above twenty-five men were left to defend this poſt, which from its great importance, and the ſituation of affairs at this juncture, moſt certainly required a much ſtronger garriſon than was put into it even at this juncture: but economy was the chief thing conſulted in the beginning of this war, and to that, in a great meaſure, was owing its long duration.

From the diſtance of the paſſage from Albany to Oſwego, it is plain how neceſſary it was that the troops intended for this expedition ſhould have ſet out early in the ſpring; but inſtead of that, the very firſt of them, Colonel Schuyler's New-Jerſey regiment, did not begin their march till after the beginning of July, and juſt as Shirley's and Pepperell's regiments were preparing to follow, the melancholy account of Braddock's diſaſter arrived at Albany, where it ſo damped the ſpirits of the people, and ſpread ſuch a terror, that many of the troops deſerted, and moſt of the batteaux-men diſperſed, and ran home, by which means even all the neceſſary ſtores could not be carried along with the troops. Notwithſtanding this diſappointment, General Shirley ſet out from Albany before the end of July, with as many of the troops and ſtores as he could procure a conveyance for, and arrived at Oſwego on the 17th or 18th of Auguſt; but the reſt of the troops and artillery did not arrive till the laſt day of that month. The general reſolved to take but ſix hundred men with him for the attack of Niagara, and to leave the reſt of his army, conſiſting of about fourteen hundred more, at Oſwego, to defend that place, in caſe the French ſhould attack it in his abſence. But by this time the rainy boiſterous ſeaſon had begun, on which account moſt of his Indians had already left him, and were returned home; and the few that remained with him declared that there was no croſſing the lake Ontario in batteaux at that ſeaſon, or any time before the next ſummer. In this perplexity he called a council of war, which, after weighing all circumſtances, unanimouſly reſolved to defer the attempt upon Niagara till the next year, and to employ the troops, while they remained at Oſwego, in building barracks, and erecting, or at leaſt beginning to erect, two new forts, one on the eaſt ſide of the river Onondaga, four hundred and fifty yards diſtant from the old fort, which it was to command, as well as the entrance of the harbour, and to be called Ontario fort; and the other four hundred and fifty yards weſt of the old fort; to be called Oſwego New Fort. Theſe things being agreed on, General Shirley, with the greateſt part of the troops under his command, ſet out on his return to Albany, on the 24th of October, leaving Colonel Mercer, with a garriſon of about ſeven hundred men, at Oſwego. Thus ended this year's unfortunate campaign, during which the French, with the aſſiſtance of their Indian allies, continued their murders, ſcalping, captivating, and laying waſte the weſtern frontiers of Virginia and Pennſylvania, during the whole winter.

A war being thus in ſome meaſure begun, his majeſty thought proper, perhaps for that reaſon, to return to his Britiſh dominions ſooner than uſual; for he left Hanover on the 8th of September, and arrived on the 15th at Kenſington, where the treaty of alliance between him and the Empreſs of Ruſſia, which he had begun during his abſence, was concluded on the 30th of the ſame month. By this treaty her Ruſſian majeſty engaged to hold in readineſs in Livonia, upon the frontiers of Lithuania, a body of troops conſiſting of forty thouſand infantry, with the neceſſary artillery, and fifteen thouſand cavalry; and alſo on the coaſt of the ſame province, forty or fifty gallies, with the neceſſary crews; to be ready to act, upon the firſt order, in his majeſty's ſervice, in caſe, ſaid the fifth article, which was the moſt remarkable, that the dominions of his Britannic majeſty in Germany ſhould be invaded on account of the intereſts or diſputes which regard his kingdoms. On the other ſide, his Britannic majeſty engaged to pay to her Ruſſian majeſty an annual ſubſidy of 100,000l. ſterling a-year, each year to be paid in advance, and to be reckoned from the day of the exchange of the ratifications, to the day that theſe troops ſhould upon requiſition march out of Ruſſia; from which day the annual ſubſidy to her imperial majeſty was to be 500,000l. ſterling, to be paid always four months in advance, until the troops ſhould return into the Ruſſian dominions, and for three months after their return. That his Britannic majeſty, who now knew enough of the court of Vienna to be ſenſible that he could expect no aſſiſtance from thence, in caſe his German dominions were invaded, ſhould enter into this convention with the Empreſs of Ruſſia, in order to ſtrengthen his defence upon the continent, was extremely natural; eſpecially as he had lately lived in great friendſhip with her, and her tranſactions with the court of France had been ſo ſecret, by paſſing through only that of Vienna, that he had not yet been informed of them; neither had the project of the treaty of Verſailles then come to his knowledge, or to that of the King of Pruſſia, nor had either of theſe princes yet made any formal advances to the other.

His Britannic majeſty now required, as King of Great Britain, the auxiliaries ſtipulated to him by treaty from the empreſs queen. But theſe were refuſed, under pretence, that as the conteſt between him and France related to America only, it was not a caſe of the alliance: though, at the ſame time, the French made no ſcruple of owning, that they intended to make a powerful deſcent on Great Britain early in the ſpring. When, a little while after, France being employed in making great preparations for a land war in Europe, the King of England required her to defend her own poſſeſſions, the barrier in the low countries, with the number of men ſtipulated by treaty, which countries acquired by Engliſh blood and Engliſh treaſure, had been given to her on that expreſs condition, ſhe declared that ſhe could not ſpare troops for that purpoſe, on account of her dangerous enemy the King of Pruſſia: and afterwards, when he was ſecured by his treaty with England, ſhe urged that as a reaſon for her alliance with France. It muſt be owned, however, for the ſake of hiſtorical truth, that this was no bad reaſon, conſidering the power, the genius, and the character, of that prince, who hovered over her dominions with an army of one hundred and fifty thouſand veterans. It muſt likewiſe be owned, that ſhe undertook to procure the French king's conſent to a neutrality for Hanover, which would have effectually ſecured that electorate from the invaſion of every other power but Pruſſia itſelf; and it is no ſtrained conjecture to ſuppoſe, that the dread of this very power was the true ſource of thoſe connections in Germany, which entailed ſuch a ruinous continental war upon Great Britain.

Though the Engliſh continued to make repriſals upon the French, not only in the ſeas of America, but alſo in thoſe of Europe, by taking every ſhip they could meet with, and detaining them, their cargoes, and crews, yet the French, whether from a conſciouſneſs

J. Paſs sculp^{t}.

FREDERIC WILLIAM II. KING of PRUSSIA.

Crowned at Berlin in the Year 1786.

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neſs of their power by ſea, or that they might have a more plauſible plea to repreſent England as the aggreſſor, were ſo far from returning the hoſtilities, that their fleet which eſcaped Sir Edward Hawke, having, on the 13th of Auguſt, taken the Blandford ſhip of war, with Governor Lyttleton on-board, going to Carolina, they ſet the governor at liberty, as ſoon as the court was informed of the ſhip's being brought into Nantes, and ſhortly after releaſed both the ſhip and crew. However, at the ſame time, their preparations for a land war ſtill went on with great diligence, and their utmoſt arts and efforts were fruitleſsly exerted to perſuade the Spaniards and Dutch to join with them againſt Great Britain.

In England, the preparations by ſea became greater than ever; ſeveral new ſhips of war were put in commiſſion, and many others taken into the ſervice of government: the exportation of gunpowder was forbid: the bounties to ſeamen were continued, and the number of thoſe, that either entered voluntarily, or were preſſed, increaſed daily, as did alſo the captures from the French. The land-forces of Great Britain were likewiſe ordered to be augmented; ſeveral new regiments were raiſed, and all half-pay officers, and the out-penſioners belonging to Chelſea hoſpital, were directed to ſend in their names, ages, and time of ſervice; in order that ſuch of them as were yet able to ſerve might be employed again if wanted. The Engliſh navy, ſo early as the month of September of this year, conſiſted of one ſhip of an hundred and ten guns, five of an hundred guns each, thirteen of ninety, eight of eighty, five of ſeventy-four, twenty-nine of ſeventy, four of ſixty ſix, one of ſixty-four, thirty-three of ſixty, three of fifty-four, twenty-eight of fifty, four of forty-four, thirty-five of forty, and forty-two of twenty, four ſloops of war of eighteen guns each, two of ſixteen, eleven of fourteen, thirteen of twelve, and one of ten, beſides a great number of bomb-ketches, fire ſhips, and tenders; a force ſufficient to oppoſe the united maritime ſtrength of all the powers in Europe: while that of the French even at the end of this year, and including the ſhips then upon the ſtocks, amounted to no more than ſix ſhips of eighty guns, twenty-one of ſeventy-four, one of ſeventy-two, four of ſeventy, thirty-one ſixty-four, two of ſixty, ſix of fifty, and thirty-two frigates.

Such was the ſituation of the two kingdoms when, on the 13th of November, parliament met, and his majeſty opened the ſeſſion with a ſpeech from the throne. The houſe of commons proceeded to provide for the ſervice of the enſuing year, and for the deficiencies of the proviſions of the former. Fifty thouſand ſeamen, including nine thouſand one hundred and thirty-eight marines, were voted for the ſervice of the year 1756, together with thirty-four thouſand two hundred and ſixty-three land ſoldiers. An 100,000l. were voted as a ſubſidy to the Empreſs of Ruſſia; 54,000l. to the Landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel; and 10,000l. to the Elector of Bavaria.

During theſe tranſactions, the public was overwhelmed with conſternation, by the tidings of a dreadful earthquake, which, on the 1ſt of November, ſhook all Spain and Portugal, and many other places in Europe, and laid the city of Liſbon in ruins. When the news of this great calamity firſt reached England, it was feared the conſequences of it might affect our public credit, conſidering the vaſt intereſt which the Engliſh merchants had in the Portugueſe trade: but, fortunately, it afterwards proved inconſiderable, in compariſon of what had been apprehended: the quarter in which the Engliſh chiefly lived, and where they had their warehouſes, having ſuffered the leaſt of any part of the city; and moſt of the Engliſh merchants then reſiding there, together with their families, being at their country-houſe to avoid the inſults to which they might have been expoſed from the

Portugueſe populace, during the celebration of their *Auto-da-fe*, which was kept that very day. The two firſt ſhocks of this dreadful viſitation continued near a quarter of an hour, after which the water of the river Tagus roſe perpendicularly above twenty feet, and ſubſided to its natural bed in leſs than a minute. Great numbers of houſes, of which this city then contained about thirty-ſix thouſand, extending in length near ſix miles, in form of a creſcent, on the aſcent of a hill, upon the north ſhore of the mouth of the river Tagus, within nine miles of the ocean, were thrown down by the repeated commotions of the earth, together with ſeveral magnificent churches, monaſteries, and public buildings. But what entirely completed the ruin of this then moſt opulent capital of the Portugueſe dominions, was a devouring conflagration, partly fortuitous or natural, but chiefly occaſioned by a ſet of impious villains, who, unawed by the tremendous ſcene at that very inſtant paſſing before their eyes, with a wickedneſs ſcarcely to be credited, ſet fire even to the falling edifices in different parts of the city, to increaſe the general confuſion, that they might have the better opportunity to rob and plunder their already deſolated fellow citizens. Out of three hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants, which Liſbon was then ſuppoſed to contain, about ten thouſand periſhed by this calamity; and the ſurvivors, deprived of their habitations, and deſtitute even of the neceſſaries of life, were forced to ſeek for ſhelter in the open fields. As ſoon as his majeſty received an account of this deplorable event from his ambaſſador at the court of Madrid, he ſent a meſſage to both houſes of parliament, on the 28th of November, acquainting them therewith, and deſiring their concurrence and aſſiſtance towards ſpeedily relieving the unhappy ſufferers; and the parliament thereupon, to the honour of Britiſh humanity, unanimouſly voted, on the 8th of December, a gift of 100,000l. for the diſtreſſed people of Portugal. A circumſtance which enhances the merit of this action is, that though the Engliſh themſelves were, at that time, in great want of grain, a conſiderable part of the ſum was ſent in corn, flour, rice, and a large quantity of beef from Ireland: ſupplies which came very ſeaſonably for the poor Portugueſe, who were in actual want of the common neceſſaries of life. Their king was ſo affected by this inſtance of Britiſh generoſity, that to ſhew his gratitude for the timely relief, he ordered Mr. Caſtres, the Britiſh reſident at his court, to give the preference, in the diſtribution of theſe ſupplies, to the Britiſh ſubjects who had ſuffered by the earthquake: accordingly, about a thirtieth part of the proviſions, and 2000l. in money, were ſet apart for that purpoſe; and his Portugueſe majeſty returned his thanks, in very warm terms, to the Britiſh crown and nation.

As it had been reſolved, in the beginning of the preceding ſummer, to build veſſels of force upon the lake Ontario, an act was now paſſed for extending the maritime laws of England, relating to the government of his majeſty's ſhips and forces by ſea, to ſuch officers, ſeamen, and others, as ſhould ſerve on-board his majeſty's ſhips or veſſels employed upon the lakes, great waters, or rivers, in North America; and alſo, but not without oppoſition to this laſt, for the better recruiting of his majeſty's forces upon the continent of America: to which end, by a new clauſe now added to a former act, a recruiting officer was empowered to inliſt and detain an indented ſervant, even though his maſter ſhould reclaim him, upon paying to the maſter ſuch a ſum as two juſtices of peace within the precinct ſhall adjudge to be a reaſonable equivalent for the original purchaſe-money, and the remaining time ſuch ſervant might have to ſerve.

On the 16th of January, the treaty between his Britannic majeſty and the King of Pruſſia was ſigned, importing, that for the defence of their common country, Germany, and in order to preſerve her peace and tranquillity, which it was feared was in danger of being diſturbed, on account of the diſputes in America, the two kings, for that end only, entered into a convention of neutrality, by which they reciprocally bound themſelves not to ſuffer foreign troops of any nation whatſoever to enter into Germany, or paſs through it during the troubles aforeſaid, and the conſequences that might reſult from them; but to oppoſe the ſame with their utmoſt might, in order to ſecure Germany from the calamities of war, maintain her fundamental laws and conſtitutions, and preſerve her peace uninterrupted. Thus, the late treaty with Ruſſia was virtually renounced. Their majeſties, morever, ſeized this favourable opportunity to adjuſt the differences that had ſubſiſted between them, in relation to the remainder of the Sileſia loan due to the ſubjects of his Britannic majeſty, and the indemnification claimed by the ſubjects of his Pruſſian majeſty for their loſſes by ſea during the late war; ſo that the attachment laid on the ſaid debt was agreed to be taken off, as ſoon as the ratification of this treaty ſhould be exchanged.

In the month of January, Mr. Fox, lately appointed ſecretary of ſtate, received a letter from M. Rouillé, miniſter for foreign affairs to the King of France, expoſtulating, in the name of his ſovereign, upon the orders and inſtructions for committing hoſtilities, which his Britannic majeſty had given to General Braddock and Admiral Boſcawen, in diametrical oppoſition to the moſt ſolemn aſſurances ſo often repeated by word of mouth, as well as in writing. He complained of the inſult which had been offered to his maſter's flag, in attacking and taking two of his ſhips in the open ſea, without any previous declaration of war; as alſo by committing depredations on the commerce of his moſt chriſtian majeſty's ſubjects, in contempt of the law of nations, the faith of treaties, and the uſage eſtabliſhed among civilized nations. He demanded immediate and full reſtitution of all the French ſhips, which, contrary to law and decorum, had been taken by the Engliſh navy, together with all the officers, ſoldiers, marines, guns, ſtores, and merchandize. He declared, that ſhould this reſtitution be made, he ſhould be willing to engage in a negotiation for what farther ſatisfaction he might claim, and continue deſirous to ſee the differences relating to America determined by a ſolid and equitable accommodation; but if, contrary to all hopes, theſe demands ſhould be rejected, he would conſider ſuch a denial of juſtice as the moſt authentic declaration of war, and as a formed deſign in the court of London to diſturb the peace of Europe.—To this peremptory remonſtrance the Britiſh ſecretary was directed to anſwer, that, though the King of England would readily conſent to an equitable and ſolid accommodation, he would not comply with the demands of immediate and full reſtitution as a preliminary condition; for his majeſty had taken no ſteps but ſuch as were rendered juſt and indiſpenſible by the hoſtilities which the French began in time of profound peace, and a proper regard for his own honour, the rights and poſſeſſions of his crown, and the ſecurity of his kingdoms.

The court of Verſailles, while they preſented remonſtrances which they knew would prove ineffectual, and exclaimed againſt the conduct of Great Britain with all the arts of calumny and exaggeration at every court in Chriſtendom, continued nevertheleſs to make ſuch preparations as denoted a deſign to proſecute the war with uncommon vigour. They began to repair and fortify Dunkirk: orders were publiſhed, that all Britiſh ſubjects ſhould quit the dominions of France: many Engliſh veſſels were ſeized in the different ports of that kingdom, and their crews ſent to priſon. At the ſame time an edict was iſſued, inviting the French ſubjects to equip privateers, offering a premium of forty livres for every gun, and as much for every man they ſhould take from the enemy; and promiſing that, in caſe a peace ſhould be ſpeedily concluded, the king would purchaſe the privateers at prime coſt. They employed great numbers of artificers and ſeamen in equipping a formidable ſquadron of ſhips at Breſt; and aſſembling a ſtrong body of land-forces, as well as a conſiderable number of tranſports, threatened the iſland of Great Britain with a dangerous invaſion.

The Engliſh people were ſeized with conſternation: the miniſtry were alarmed and perplexed. Colonel York, the Britiſh reſident at the Hague, was ordered by his majeſty to make a requiſition of the ſix thouſand men whom the ſtates-general are obliged by treaty to furniſh, when Great Britain ſhould be threatened with an invaſion; and in February he preſented a memorial for this purpoſe. Monſieur d'Affry, the French king's miniſter at the Hague, having received intimation of this demand, produced a counter-memorial from his maſter, charging the Engliſh as the aggreſſors, and giving the ſtates-general plainly to underſtand, that, ſhould they grant the ſuccours demanded by Great Britain, he ſhould conſider their compliance as an act of hoſtility againſt himſelf. The Dutch, though divided amongſt themſelves by faction, were unanimouſly averſe to any meaſure that might involve them in the approaching war. They foreſaw a great increaſe of trade in their adhering to a punctual neutrality: they were afraid of the French by land, and jealous of the Engliſh by ſea; and, perhaps, enjoyed the proſpect of ſeeing theſe two proud and powerful nations humble and impoveriſh each other. Certain it is, the ſtates-general protracted their anſwer to Mr. Yorke's memorial by ſuch affected delays, that the court of London perceived their intention, and in order to avoid the mortification of a flat denial, the king ordered his reſident to acquaint the princeſs regent, that he would not inſiſt upon his demand.—From this the Engliſh may perceive what they have to expect in caſes of emergency from the friendſhip of their neareſt allies. Such a conſideration, joined to other concurring motives, ought to induce the Britiſh legiſlature to withdraw its dependance from all foreign connections, and provide ſuch a conſtitutional force within itſelf, as will be fully ſufficient to baffle all the efforts of an external enemy. The apprehenſions and diſtraction of the people at this juncture plainly evinced the expediency of ſuch a national force; but different parties were divided in their opinions, about the nature of ſuch a proviſion. Some of the warmeſt friends of their country propoſed a well-regulated militia, as an inſtitution that would effectually anſwer the purpoſe of defending a wide extended ſea-coaſt from invaſion; while, on the other hand, this propoſal was ridiculed and refuted as impracticable and uſeleſs by all the retainers to the court, and all the officers of the ſtanding army. In the mean time, as the experiment could not be immediately tried, and the preſent juncture demanded ſome inſtant determination, recourſe was had to a foreign remedy. A body of Heſſians, and twelve battalions of Hanoverians were brought over.

But under the cloak of an invading armament, which engroſſed the attention of the Britiſh nation, the French were actually employed in preparations for an expedition, which ſucceeded according to their wiſh. In the beginning of the year advice was received that a French ſquadron would ſoon be in a condition to ſail from Toulon: this ſquadron conſiſted of twelve or fifteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports; they were ſupplied with proviſion for two months only, conſequently could not be intended for America; and ſtrong bodies of troops were on their march from different parts of the French dominions to Dauphiné and Provence, in order to be embarked. Notwithſtanding theſe particulars of information, which plainly pointed out Minorca as the object of their expedition; notwithſtanding the extenſive and important commerce carried on by the ſubjects of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, no care was taken to ſend thither a ſquadron of ſhips capable to protect the trade, and fruſtrate the deſigns of the enemy. That great province was left to a few inconſiderable ſhips and frigates, which could ſerve no other purpoſe than that of carrying intelligence from port to port, and enriching their commanders, by making prize of merchant veſſels. Nay, the miniſtry ſeemed to pay little or no regard to the remonſtrance of General Blakeney, deputy-governor of Minorca, who, in repeated advices, repreſented the weakneſs of the garriſon which he commanded in St. Philip's caſtle, the chief fortreſs on the iſland. Far from ſtrengthening the garriſon with a proper reinforcement, they did not even ſend thither officers belonging to it, who were in England upon leave of abſence, nor give directions for any veſſel to tranſport them, until the French armament was ready to make a deſcent upon that iſland.

It is with pleaſure we ſeize this opportunity of recording an inſtance of gallantry and patriotiſm in a Britiſh officer, which would have done honour to the character of a Roman tribune. Captain Cunningham, an accompliſhed young gentleman, who acted as engineer in ſecond at Minorca, being preferred to a majority at home, and recalled to his regiment by an expreſs order, had repaired with his family to Nice in Italy, where he waited for the opportunity of a ſhip bound for England, when he received certain intelligence that the French armament was deſtined for the place he had quitted. His lady whom he tenderly loved, was juſt delivered, and two of his children were dangerouſly ill of the ſmall-pox. He recollected that the chief engineer at Minorca was infirm, and indeed diſabled by the gout, and that many things were wanting for the defence of the fortreſs. His zeal for the honour and ſervice of his country immediately triumphed over the calls of tenderneſs and of nature. He expended a conſiderable ſum of money in purchaſing timber for the platforms, and other neceſſaries for the garriſon; hired a ſhip for tranſporaing them thither; and tearing himſelf from his wife and children, thus left among ſtrangers in a foreign country, embarked again for Minorca, where he knew he ſhould be in a peculiar manner expoſed to all the dangers of a furious ſiege. In the courſe of this deſperate ſervice he acquitted himſelf with that vigilance, ſkill, and active courage, which he had on divers former occaſions diſplayed, until the aſſault was given to the Queen's Baſtion; when mixing with the enemy, ſword in hand, he was diſabled in his right arm by the ſhot of a muſket, and the thruſt of a bayonet. His behaviour was ſo acceptable to his ſovereign, that, when he returned to England he was preferred to the rank of colonel in the guards. He afterwards acted as chief engineer in the attempts and deſcents which were made on the French coaſt. Though grievouſly maimed, he accepted the ſame office in the expedition to Guadaloupe, where he died univerſally regretted.

At length, the deſtination of the enemy's fleet being univerſally known, the miniſtry ſeemed to rouſe from their lethargy, and, like perſons ſuddenly waking, acted with hurry and precipitation. Inſtead of detaching a ſquadron that in all reſpects ſhould be ſuperior to the French fleet in the Mediterranean, and beſtowing the command of it upon an officer of approved courage and activity, they allotted no more than ten ſhips of the line for this ſervice, veſting the command of them in Admiral Byng, who had never met with any occaſion to ſignalize his courage, and whoſe character was not very popular in the navy: but Mr. Weſt, the ſecond in command, was a gentleman univerſally reſpected for his probity, ability, and reſolution. The ten ſhips deſtined for this expedition, were but in very indifferent order, poorly manned, and unprovided with either hoſpital or fire ſhip. They ſailed from Spithead on the 7th of April, having on-board, as part of their complement, a regiment of ſoldiers to be landed at Gibraltar, with Major-general Stuart, Lord Effingham, and Colonel Cornwallis, whoſe regiments were in garriſon at Minorca; about forty inferior officers, and near one hundred recruits, as a reinforcement to St. Philip's fortreſs.

After all the intelligence which had been received, one would imagine the government of England was ſtill ignorant of the enemy's force and deſtination; for the inſtructions delivered to Admiral Byng imported, that, on his arrival at Gibraltar, he ſhould enquire whether any French ſquadron had paſſed through the ſtraits; and that, being certified in the affirmative, as it was probably deſigned for North America, he ſhould immediately detach Rear-admiral Weſt to Louiſbourg, on the iſland of Cape Breton, with ſuch a number of ſhips, as, when joined with thoſe of Hallifax, would conſtitute force ſuperior to the armament of the enemy. On the 2d of May, 1756, Byng arrived at Gibraltar, where he found Captain Edgecumbe, with the Princeſs Louiſa ſhip of war and a ſloop, who informed him, that the French armament, commanded by M. de la Galiſſonniere, conſiſting of thirteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports, having on-board a body of fifteen thouſand land-forces, had ſailed from Toulon the 10th of April, and made a deſcent upon the iſland of Minorca, from whence he (Captain Edgecumbe) had been obliged to retire at their approach. General Fowke, who commanded at Gibraltar, had received two ſucceſſive orders from the ſecretary at war, with reſpect to the ſparing a battalion of troops to be tranſported by Mr. Byng, as a reinforcement to Minorca; but as the two orders appeared inconſiſtent or equivocal, a council of war was conſulted, and the majority were of opinion that no troops ſhould be ſent from thence to Minorca, except a detachment to ſupply the deficiency in the little ſquadron of Captain Edgecumbe, who had left a good number of his ſeamen and marines, under the command of Captain Scroop, to aſſiſt in the defence of Fort St. Philip's. Theſe articles of intelligence the admiral diſpatched by an expreſs to to the lords of the admiralty, and in his letter made uſe of ſome impolitic expreſſions, which, in all probability, it would have been well for him had he omitted. He ſaid, if he had been ſo happy as to have arrived at Mahon before the French had landed, he flattered himſelf he ſhould have been able to prevent their getting a footing on that iſland. He complained, that there were no magazines in Gibraltar for ſupplying the ſquadron with neceſſaries; that the careening-wharfs, pits, and ſtore-houſes, were entirely decayed, ſo that he ſhould find the greateſt difficulty in cleaning the ſhips that were foul; and this was the caſe with ſome of thoſe he carried out from England, as well as with thoſe which had been for ſome time cruiſing in the Mediterranean. He ſignified his opinion, that, even if it ſhould be found practicable, it would be very impolitic, to throw any men into St. Philip's caſtle, which could not be ſaved without a land force ſufficient to raiſe the ſiege; therefore, a ſmall reinforcement would only add ſo many men to the number which muſt fall into the hands of the enemy. He obſerved, that ſuch engineers and artillery-men in Gibraltar, as had been at Minorca, were of opinion, that it would be impoſſible to throw any number of men into St. Philip's, if the French had erected batteries on the two ſhores near the entrance of the harbour, ſo as to bar all paſſage up to the ſally-port of the fortreſs; and with this opinion he ſignified the concurrence of his own ſentiments. The firſt part of this letter was a downright impeachment of the miniſtry, for having delayed the expedition, for having ſent out ſhips unfit for ſervice, and for having neglected the magazines and wharfs at Gibraltar. In the latter part he ſeemed to prepare them for the ſubſequent account of his miſconduct and miſcarriage. It cannot be ſuppoſed that they underwent this accuſation without apprehenſion and reſentment: and as they foreſaw the loſs of Minorca, which would not fail to excite a national clamour, perhaps they now began to take meaſures for gratifying their reſentment, and transferring the blame from themſelves to the perſon who had preſumed to hint a diſapprobation of their conduct: for this purpoſe they could not have found a fairer opportunity than Byng's ſubſequent behaviour afforded.

The admiral, being ſtrengthened by Mr. Edgecumbe, and reinforced by a detachment from the garriſon, ſet ſail from Gibraltar on the 8th of May, and was joined off Majorca by the Phœnix, Captain Hervey, who confirmed the intelligence he had already received, touching the ſtrength and deſtination of the French ſquadron. When he approached Minorca, he deſcried the Britiſh colours ſtill flying at the caſtle of St. Philip's, and ſeveral bomb-batteries playing upon it from different quarters where the French banners were diſplayed. Thus informed, he detached three ſhips ahead, with Captain Hervey, to reconnoitre the harbour's mouth, and land, if poſſible, a letter for General Blakeney, giving him to underſtand the fleet was come to his aſſiſtance. Before this attempt could be made, the French fleet appearing to the ſouth-eaſt, and the wind blowing ſtrong off ſhore, he recalled his ſhips, and formed the line of battle. About ſix o'clock in the evening, the enemy, to the number of ſeventeen ſhips, thirteen of which appeared to be very large, advanced in order; but about ſeven tacked in order to gain the weather-gage. Mr. Byng, in order to preſerve that advantage, as well as to make ſure of the land wind in the morning, followed their example, being then about five leagues from Cape Mola. At day-light the enemy could not be deſcried; but two tartanes appearing cloſe to the rear of the Engliſh ſquadron, they were immediately chaſed by ſignal. One eſcaped, and the other being taken, was found to have on-board two French captains, two lieutenants, and about one hundred private ſoldiers, part of ſix hundred who had been ſent out in tartanes the preceding day, to reinforce the enemy's ſquadron. This ſoon re-appearing, the line of battle was formed on each ſide, and about two o'clock Admiral Byng threw out a ſignal to bear away two points from the wind and engage. At this time his diſtance from the enemy was ſo great, that Rear-admiral Weſt, perceiving it impoſſible to comply with both orders, bore away with his diviſion ſeven points from the wind, and, cloſing down upon the enemy, attacked them with ſuch impetuoſity, that the ſhips which oppoſed him were in a little time driven out of the line. Had he been properly ſuſtained by the van, in all probability the Britiſh fleet would have obtained a complete victory; but the other diviſion did not bear down, and, the enemy's centre keeping that ſtation, Weſt could not purſue his advantage without running the riſque of ſeeing his communication with the reſt of the line entirely cut off. In the beginning of the action, the Intrepid, in Mr. Byng's diviſion, was ſo diſabled in her rigging, that ſhe could not be managed, and drove on the ſhip that was next in poſition: a circumſtance which obliged ſeveral others to throw all a-back, in order to avoid confuſion, and for ſome time retarded the action. Certain it is, that Mr. Byng, though accommodated with a noble ſhip of ninety guns, made little or no uſe of his artillery, but kept aloof, either from an overſtrained obſervance of diſcipline, or timidity. When his captain exhorted him to bear down upon the enemy, he very cooly replied, that he would avoid the error of Admiral Matthews, who, in his engagement with the French and Spaniſh ſquadrons off Toulon, during the preceding war, had broke the line by his own precipitation, and expoſed himſelf ſingly to a fire that he could not ſuſtain: Mr. Byng, on the contrary, was determined againſt acting, except with the line entire; and, on pretence of rectifying the diſorder which had happened among ſome of the ſhips, heſitated ſo long, and kept at ſuch a wary diſtance, that he never was properly engaged, though he received ſome few ſhots in his hull. M. de la Galiſſonniere ſeemed equally averſe to the continuance of the battle: part of his ſquadron had been fairly obliged to quit the line; and though he was rather ſuperior to the Engliſh in number of men and weight of metal, he did not choose to abide the conſequence of a cloſer fight with an enemy ſo expert in naval operation: he therefore took advantage of Mr. Byng's heſitation, and edged away with an eaſy ſail to join his van, which had been diſcomfited. The Engliſh admiral gave chaſe; but the French ſhips being clean, he could not come up and cloſe them again, ſo they retired at their leiſure. Then he put his ſquadron on the other tack, in order to keep the wind of the enemy; and next morning they were altogether out of ſight.

While he lay-to with the reſt of his fleet, at the diſtance of ten leagues from Mahon, he detached cruiſers to look for ſome miſſing ſhips, which joined him accordingly, and made an enquiry into the condition of the ſquadron. The number of killed amounted to forty-two, including Captain Andrews, of the Defiance, and about one hundred and forty-eight were wounded. Three of the capital ſhips were ſo damaged in their maſts, that they could not keep the ſea, with any regard to their ſafety: a great number of the ſeamen were ill, and there was no veſſel which could be converted into an hoſpital for the ſick and wounded. In this ſituation, Mr. Byng called a council of war, at which the land officers were preſent. He repreſented to them, that he was much inferior to the enemy in weight of metal and number of men; that they had the advantage of ſending their wounded to Minorca, from whence at the ſame time they were refreſhed and reinforced occaſionally; that, in his opinion, it was impracticable to relieve St. Philip's fort, and, therefore, they ought to make the beſt of their way back to Gibraltar, which might require immediate protection. They unanimouſly concurred with his ſentiments, and thither he directed his courſe accordingly. How he came to be ſo well acquainted with the impracticability of relieving General Blakeney, it is not eaſy to determine, as no experiment was made for that purpoſe. Indeed, the neglect of ſuch a trial ſeems to have been the leaſt excuſable part of his conduct; for it afterwards appeared, that the officers and ſoldiers belonging to the garriſon might have been landed at the ſally-port, without running any great riſque; and a gentleman, then in the fort, actually paſſed and repaſſed in a boat, unhurt by any of the enemy's batteries.

Mr. Byng's letter to the admiralty, containing a detail of this action, is ſaid to have arrived ſome days before it was made public; and that, when it appeared, was curtailed of divers expreſſions, and whole paragraphs, which either tended to his own juſtification, or implied a cenſure on the conduct of his ſuperiors. Whatever uſe might have been made of this letter while it remained a ſecret to the public we ſhall not pretend to explain: but certain it is, that on the 16th of June, Sir Edward Hawke and Admiral Saunders failed from Spithead to Gibraltar, to ſuperſede the Admirals Byng and Weſt, and Byng's letter was not publiſhed till the 26th of the ſame month, when it produced all the effect which that gentleman's bittereſt enemies could have deſired. The populace took fire like a train of the moſt haſty combuſtibles, and broke out into ſuch a clamour of rage and indignation againſt the devoted admiral, as could not have been exceeded if he had loſt the whole navy of England, and left the coaſts of the kingdom naked to invaſion. This animoſity was carefully fomented and maintained by artful emiſſaries, who mingled with all public aſſemblies, from the drawing room at St. James's to the mob at Charing Croſs. They expiated upon the inſolence, the folly, the cowardice, and miſconduct, of the unhappy admiral. They ridiculed and refuted the reaſons he had given for returning to Gibraltar, after his ſcandalous rencounter with the French ſquadron; and, in order to exaſperate them to the moſt implacable reſentment, they exagggerated the terrible conſequences of loſing Minorca, which muſt now be ſubdued through his treachery or want of reſolution. In a word, he was devoted as the ſcapegoat of the miniſtry, to whoſe ſupine negligence, ignorance, and miſconduct, the loſs of that important fortreſs was undoubtedly owing.

The two officers who ſucceeded to the command in the Mediterranean, were accompanied by Lord Tyrawley, whom his majeſty had appointed to ſuperſede General Fowke in the government of Gibraltar, that gentleman having incurred the diſpleaſure of the miniſtry, for not having underſtood an order which was unintelligible. By the ſame conveyance a letter was tranſmitted to Mr. Byng, giving him notice that he was recalled. To this intimation he replied in ſuch a manner as denoted a conſciouſneſs of his having done his duty, and a deſire to vindicate his own conduct. His anſwer contained a farther account of the engagement in which he was ſuppoſed to have miſbehaved, intermixed with ſome puerile calculations of the enemy's ſuperiority in weight of metal, which ſerved no other purpoſe than that of expoſing his character ſtill more to ridicule and abuſe; and he was again ſo impolitic as to hazard certain expreſſions, which

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added freſh fuel to the reſentment of his enemies. Directions were immediately diſpatched to Sir Edward Hawke, that Byng ſhould be ſent home in arreſt; and an order to the ſame purpoſe was lodged at every port in the kingdom: precautions, which, however unneceſſary to ſecure the perſon of a man who longed ardently to juſtify his character by a public trial, were yet productive of conſiderable effect in augmenting the popular odium. Admiral Byng immediately embarked in the ſhip which had carried out his ſucceſſor, and was accompanied by Mr. Weſt, General Fowke, and ſeveral other officers of that garriſon, who were alſo recalled, in conſequence of having ſubſcribed to the reſult of the council of war, which we have mentioned above. When they arrived in England, Mr. Weſt met with ſuch a gracious reception from his majeſty as was thought due to his extraordinary merit; but Mr. Byng was committed cloſe priſoner in an apartment of Greenwich Hoſpital.

In the mean time, the ſiege of St. Philip's fort in Minorca was proſecuted with unremitting vigour. The armament of Toulon, conſiſting of the fleet commanded by M. de la Galiſſonniere, and the troops under the Duke de Richelieu, arrived on the 18th of April at the port of Ciudadella, on that part of the iſland oppoſite to Mahon, or St. Philip's, and immediately began to diſembark their forces. Two days before they reached the iſland, General Blakeney had, by a packet-boat, received certain intelligence of their approach, and began to make preparations for the defence of the caſtle. The fort which he commanded was very extenſive, ſurrounded with numerous redoubts, ravelins, and other outworks; and provided with ſubterranean galleries, mines, and traverſes, cut out of the ſolid rock with incredible labour. Upon the whole, this was one of the beſt fortified places in Europe, well ſupplied with artillery, ammunition, and proviſion; and, without all doubt, might have ſuſtained the moſt deſperate ſiege, had it been defended by a numerous garriſon; but the number of troops in Minorca did not exceed four regiments, whereas the nature of the works required at leaſt double the number; and, even of theſe, above forty officers were abſent. The chief engineer was rendered lame by the gout, and the general himſelf oppreſſed with the infirmities of old age. The natives of the iſland might have been ſerviceable as pioneers, or day labourers; but, from their hatred to the proteſtant religion, they were generally averſe to the Engliſh government, although they had lived happily and grown wealthy under its influence.

On the 22d of April, the governor ſent a drummer to the French general with a letter, deſiring to know his reaſons for invading the iſland. To this an anſwer was returned by the Duke de Richelieu, declaring he was come with intention to reduce the iſland under the dominion of his moſt chriſtian majeſty, by way of retaliation for the conduct of his maſter, who had ſeized and detained the ſhips belonging to the King of France and his ſubjects. If we may judge from the firſt operations of this nobleman, he was but indifferently provided with engineers: for, inſtead of beginning his approaches on the ſide of St. Philip's town, cloſe by the outworks, where he might have been ſcreened from the fire of the garriſon, his batteries were erected at Cape Mola, on the other ſide of the harbour, where they were more expoſed, their fire much leſs effectual, and indeed at too great a diſtance to be of any ſervice. The fire of St. Philip's was ſo ſevere, and the cannon ſo well ſerved on this quarter, that in a little time the enemy thought proper to change their plan of attack, and advance on the ſide of St. Philip's town, which ought to have been the firſt object of their conſideration, eſpecially as they could find ittle or no earth to fill up their gabions, and open their trenches in the uſual form. On the 12th of

May, about nine at night, they opened two bomb batteries, near the place where the windmills had been deſtroyed; and from that period an inceſſant fire was kept up on both ſides, from mortars and cannon, the French continuing to raiſe new batteries in every ſituation from whence they could annoy the beſieged.

On the 17th of the month, the garriſon were tranſported with joy at the ſight of the Britiſh ſquadron, commanded by Admiral Byng; and Mr. Boyd, commiſſary of the ſtores ventured to embark in a ſmall boat with ſix oars, which paſſed from St. Stephen's Cove, a creek on the weſt ſide of the fortification, through a ſhower of cannon and muſketry from the enemy's poſt on the other ſide, and actually reached the open ſea, his deſign being to join the ſquadron; but this, being at a great diſtance, ſtretched away to the ſouthward, and Mr. Boyd perceiving himſelf chaſed by two of the enemy's light veſſels, he returned by the ſame route to the garriſon, without having ſuſtained the leaſt damage. A circumſtance which plainly confutes the notion of Mr. Byng, that it was impracticable to open a communication with the garriſon of St. Philip's.

Next day the hopes of the beſieged, which had prognoſticated a naval victory to the Britiſh ſquadron, a ſpeedy relief to themſelves, and no leſs than captivity to their aſſailants, were conſiderably damped by the appearance of the French fleet, which quietly returned to their ſtation off the harbour of Mahon. That ſame evening they were told by a deſerter, that the Engliſh fleet had been worſted in an engagement by M de la Galiſſonnicre; and this information was ſoon confirmed by a general diſcharge, or *feu de joie*, through the whole French camp, to celebrate the victory they pretended to have obtained. How little ſoever they had reaſon to boaſt of any advantage in the action, the retreat of the Engliſh ſquadron was undoubtedly equivalent to a victory; for, had Mr. Byng acquired and maintained the ſuperiority at ſea, the French forces which had been diſembarked in Minorca, would, in all probability, have been obliged to ſurrender priſoners of war to his Britannic majeſty. The caſe was now much altered in their favour: their ſquadron cruiſed about the iſland without moleſtation: and they daily received, by means of their tranſports, reinforcements of men and amunition, as well as conſtant ſupplies of proviſions.

The Engliſh garriſon, however, mortified at finding themſelves thus abandoned, reſolved to acquit themſelves with gallantry in the defence of the place, not without ſome remaining hope that the Engliſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and return to their relief. In the mean time they ſuſtained and retorted the enemy's fire with undaunted reſolution. They remounted cannon, the carriages of which had been diſabled: they removed them occaſionally to places from whence it was judged they could do the greateſt execution: they repaired breaches, and laboured with ſurpriſing alacrity, even when they were ſurrounded by the numerous batteries of the foe. By this time they were inveſted by an army of twenty thouſand men, and plied inceſſantly from ſixty-two battering cannon, twenty-one mortars, and four howitzers, beſides the ſmall arms: nevertheleſs, the loſs of men within the fortreſs was very inconſiderable, the garriſon being moſtly ſecured in the ſubterranean works, which were impenetrable to ſhells or ſhot. By the 27th of June they had made a practicable breach in one of the ravelins, and damaged the other outworks to ſuch a degree, that they determined this night to give a general aſſault. Accordingly, between the hours of ten and eleven, they advanced to the attack from all quarters on the land ſide. At the ſame time a ſtrong detachment in armed boats attempted to force the harbour, and penetrate into the creek called St. Stephen's Cove, to ſtorm Fort Charles, and ſecond the attack upon Fort Marlborough, on the farther ſide of the creek, the moſt detached of all the outworks. The enemy advanced with great intrepidity, and their commander, the Duke de Richelieu, is ſaid to have led them up to the works in perſon. Such an aſſault could not but be attended with great ſlaughter: they were mowed down, as they approached, with grape ſhot and muſquetry: and ſeveral mines were ſprung with great effect, ſo that the glacis was almoſt covered with the dying and the dead. Nevertheleſs, they perſevered with uncommon reſolution; and, though repulſed on every other ſide, at length made a lodgement in the Queen's redoubt, which had been greatly damaged by their cannon. Whether their ſucceſs in this quarter was owing to the weakneſs of the place, or to the timidity of the defenders, certain it is, the enemy were in poſſeſſion before it was known to the officers of the garriſon: for Lieutenant-colonel Jeffries, the ſecond in command, who had acquitted himſelf ſince the beginning of the ſiege with equal courage, ſkill, and activity, in his viſitation of this poſt, was ſuddenly ſurrounded and taken by a file of French grenadiers, at a time when he never dreamed they had made a lodgement. Major Cunningham, who accompanied him, met with a ſeverer fate, though he eſcaped captivity: he was run through the arm with a bayonet, and the piece being diſcharged at the ſame time, ſhattered the bones of his hand in ſuch a manner, that he was maimed for life. In this ſhocking condition he retired behind a traverſe, and was carried home to his quarters. Thus the governor was deprived of his two principal aſſiſtants, one being taken, and the other diſabled.

The enemy having made themſelves maſters of Anſtruther's and the Queen's redoubts, the Duke de Richelieu ordered a parley to be beat, in order to obtain permiſſion to bury the dead, and remove the wounded. This requeſt was granted with more humanity than diſcretion, inaſmuch as the enemy took this opportunity to throw a reinforcement of men privately into the places where the lodgments had been made, and theſe penetrated into the gallery of the mines, which communicated with all the other outworks. During this ſhort ceſſation, General Blakeney ſummoned a council of war, to deliberate upon the ſtate of the fort and garriſon; and the majority declared for a capitulation. The works were in many places ruined; the body of the caſtle were ſhattered; many guns were diſmounted, the embraſures and parapets demoliſhed, the palliſadoes broke in pieces, the garriſon exhauſted with hard duty and inceſſant watching, and the enemy in poſſeſſion of the ſubterranean communications. Beſides, the governor had received information from priſoners, that the Duke de Richelieu was alarmed by a report that the Marſhal Duke de Belleiſle would be ſent to ſuperſede him in the command, and for that reaſon would hazard another deſperate aſſault, which it was the opinion of the majority the garriſon could not ſuſtain. Theſe conſiderations, added to the deſpair of being relieved, induced him to demand a capitulation. But this meaſure was not taken by the unanimous conſent of the council. Some officers obſerved, that the garriſon was very little diminiſhed, and ſtill in good ſpirits: that no breach was made in the body of the caſtle, nor a ſingle cannon erected to batter in breach: that the loſs of an outwork was never deemed a ſufficient reaſon for ſurrendering ſuch a fortreſs: that the counterſcarp was not yet taken, nor, on account of the rocky ſoil, could be taken, except by aſſault, which would coſt the enemy a greater number than they had loſt in their late attempt; that they could not attack the ditch, or batter in breach, before the counterſcarp ſhould be taken, and even then they muſt have recourſe to galleries before they could paſs the foſſé, which was furniſhed with mines and countermines:

finally, they ſuggeſted. that in all probability the Britiſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and fall back to their relief; or, if it ſhould not return, it was the duty of the governor to defend the place to extremity, without having any regard to the conſequences. Theſe remarks being over ruled, the chamade was beat, a conference enſued, and very honourable conditions were granted to the garriſon, in conſideration of the gallant defence they had made. This it muſt be owned was vigorous while it laſted, as the French general was ſaid to have loſt five thouſand men in the ſiege; whereas the loſs of the garriſon, which at firſt fell ſhort of three thouſand men, did not exceed one hundred. The capitulation imported, that the garriſon ſhould march out with all the honours of war, and be conveyed by ſea to Gibraltar. The French were put in poſſeſſion of one gate, as well as Fort Charles and Marlborough redoubt: but the Engliſh troops remained in the other works till the 7th day of July, when they embarked. In the mean time, reciprocal civilities paſſed between the commanders and officers of both nations.

The articles of capitulation were no ſooner executed, than Monſieur de la Galiſſonniere ſailed back to Toulon, with all the prizes which had lain at anchor in the harbour of Mahon, ſince the fort of St. Philip was firſt inveſted. In all probability, the ſafety of himſelf and his whole ſquadron was owing to this expeditious retreat; for in a few days after the ſurrender of the fort, Sir Edward Hawke's fleet, augmented by five ſhips of the line, which had been ſent from England when the firſt tidings arrived of Minorca's being invaded, now made its appearance off the iſland: but by this time Galiſſonniere was retired, and the Engliſh admiral had the mortification to ſee the French colours flying upon St. Philip's caſtle. Sir Edward Hawke, being diſappointed in his hope of encountering La Galiſſonniere, and relieving the Engliſh garriſon of St. Philip's, at leaſt aſſerted the empire of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, by annoying the commerce of the enemy, and blocking up their ſquadron in the harbour of Toulon. Underſtanding that the Auſtrian government at Leghorn had detained an Engliſh privateer, and impriſoned the captain, on pretence that he had violated the neutrality of the port, he detached two ſhips of war, to inſiſt, in a peremptory manner, on the releaſe of the ſhip, effects, crew, and captain; and they thought proper to comply with this demand, even without waiting for orders from the court of Vienna.

The perſon in whoſe behalf the admiral thus interpoſed, was one Fortunatus Wright, a native of Liverpool: who, though a ſtranger to a ſea life, had, in the laſt war, equipped a privateer, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſuch a manner, by his uncommon vigilance and valour, that, if he had been indulged with a command ſuitable to his genius, he would have deſerved as honourable a place in the annals of the navy, as that which the French have beſtowed on their boaſted Guai Trouin, Du Bart, and Thurot. An uncommon exertion of ſpirit was the occaſion of his being detained at this juncture. While he lay at anchor in the harbour of Leghorn, commander of the St. George privateer of Liverpool, a ſmall ſhip of twelve guns and eighty men, a large French xebeque, mounted with ſixteen cannon, and nearly three times the number of his complement, choſe her ſtation in view of the harbour, in order to interrupt the Britiſh commerce. The gallant Wright could not endure this inſult; notwithſtanding the enemy's ſuperiority in metal and number of men, he weighed anchor, hoiſted his ſails, engaged him within ſight of the ſhore, and after a very obſtinate diſpute, in which the captain, lieutenant, and above threeſcore of the men belonging to the xebeque, were killed on the ſpot, he obliged them to ſheer off, and returned to the harbour in triumph.

This brave corſair would no doubt, have ſignalized himſelf by many other exploits, had not he, in the ſequel, been overtaken in the midſt of his career by a dreadful ſtorm, in which the ſhip foundering, he and all his crew periſhed.

Hawke, having ſcoured the Mediterranean, and inſulted the enemy's ports, returned with the homeward-bound trade to Gibraltar; whence, about the latter end of the year, he ſet ſail for England with part of his ſquadron, leaving the reſt in that bay, for the protection of our commerce, which, in thoſe parts, ſoon began to ſuffer extremely from French privateers, that now ſwarmed in the Mediterrrnean. General Blakeney arrived, with the garriſon of Minorca, at Portſmouth, in November, and was received with expreſſions of tumultuous joy: every place through which he paſſed celebrated his return with bonfires, illuminations, bell ringing, and acclamations: every mouth was open in his praiſe, extolling him for the gallant defence he had made in the caſtle of St. Philip. In a word, the people's veneration for Blakeney increaſed in proportion to their abhorrence of Byng; the firſt was lifted into an idol of admiration, while the other ſunk into an object of reproach; and they were viewed at different ends of a falſe perſpective, through the medium of prejudice and paſſion; of a perſpective artfully contrived, and applied by certain miniſters for the purpoſes of ſelf-intereſt and deceit. Blakeney met with a gracious reception from his majeſty, who raiſed him to the rank of an Iriſh baron, in conſideration of his faithful ſervices; while ſome malcontents murmured at this mark of favour, as an unreaſonable ſacrifice to popular miſapprehenſion.

About this time, a number of public ſpirited merchants of the city of London and others, formed themſelves in a very laudable aſſociation, under the name of the Marine Society, and contributed conſiderable ſums of money for equipping ſuch orphans, friendleſs and forlorn boys, as were willing to engage in the ſervice of the navy. In conſequence of this excellent plan, which was executed with equal zeal and diſcretion, many thouſands were reſcued from miſery, and rendered uſeful members of that ſociety, of which they muſt have been the bane and reproach, without this humane interpoſition.

As the miniſtry were determined to make their chief efforts againſt the enemy in North America, where the firſt hoſtilities had been committed, and where the ſtrongeſt impreſſions could be made, a detachent of two regiments was ſent thither under the conduct of General Abercrombie, appointed as ſucceſſor to General Shirley, whom they recalled, as a perſon no ways qualified to conduct military operations. But the command in chief of all the forces in America was conferred upon the Earl of Loudoun, a nobleman of amiable character, who had already diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the ſervice of his country. Over and above this command, he was now appointed governor of Virginia, and colonel of a royal American regiment, to be raiſed in that country, and diſciplined by officers of experience, invited from foreign ſervice. Abercrombie ſet ſail for America in March, but Loudoun did not embark till the latter end of May.

At length, his majeſty, in the courſe of the ſame month, thought proper to publiſh a declaration of war againſt the French king, (after hoſtilities had continued more than a twelvemonth;) and immediately after, the French ſhips and cargoes, which had been taken, were tried, and condemned as legal prizes, expoſed to public ſale, and their produce lodged in the Bank; but in what manner this money, amounting to a large ſum, was diſtributed or employed, we have not been able to diſcover.

An addreſs was ſoon after preſented to the king, by the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council, of

London, containing ſtrong hints to the diſadvantage of the miniſtry. They expreſſed their apprehenſion, that the loſs of the important fortreſs of St. Philip and the iſland of Minorca, poſſeſſions of the utmoſt conſequence to the commerce and naval ſtrength of Great Britain, without any attempt by timely and effectual ſuccours to prevent or defeat an attack, after ſuch early notice of the enemy's intentions, and when his majeſty's navy was ſo evidently ſuperior to theirs, would be an indelible reproach on the honour of the Britiſh nation. They expatiated upon the imminent danger to which the Britiſh poſſeſſions in America were expoſed, by the miſmanagement and delays which had attended the defence of thoſe invaluable colonies, the object of the preſent war, the principal ſource of the wealth and ſtrength of theſe kingdoms. They lamented the want of a conſtitutional well-regulated militia, the moſt natural and certain defence againſt all invaders whatſoever. They ſignified their hope that the authors of the late loſſes and diſappointments would be detected, and brought to condign puniſhment. In anſwer to this addreſs the king aſſured them, that he would not fail to do juſtice upon any perſon who ſhould have been wanting in their duty to him and their country; to enforce obedience and diſcipline in his fleets and armies; and to ſupport the authority and reſpect due to his government. Remonſtrances of the ſame kind were preſented by different counties and corporations; and the populace clamoured aloud for enquiry and juſtice.

The firſt victim offered to the enraged multitude, was the unfortunate General Fowke, who had been deputy governor of Gibraltar, and behaved with remarkable conduct and integrity in the exerciſe of that important office, till that period when he fell under the diſpleaſure of the government. He was now brought to trial before a board of general officers, and accuſed of having diſobeyed the orders he had received from the ſecretary at war in three ſucceſſive letters, touching the relief of Minorca. The letters were theſe.

No. I. *To Lieut. Gen.* Fowke, *or, in his Abſence, to the Commander in Chief in his Majeſty's Garriſon of Gibraltar.*

War Office, March 21, 1756.

Sir, I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majeſty's pleaſure that you receive into your garriſon Lord Robert Bertie's regiment, to do duty there; and, in caſe you ſhould apprehend that the French intend to make any attempt upon his majeſty's iſland of Minorca, it is his majeſty's pleaſure, that you make a detachment out of the troops in your garriſon, equal to a battalion, to be commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major; ſuch lieutenant-colonel and major to be the eldeſt in your garriſon, to be put on-board the fleet for the relief of Minorca, as the admiral ſhall think expedient, who is to carry them to the ſaid iſland. B.

No. II. *War Office, March* 26, 1756.

Sir, I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majeſty's pleaſure, in caſe the iſland of Minorca ſhould be in any likelihood of being attacked, that you make a detachment from the troops in your garriſon equal to a battalion, commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major, for the relief of that place, to be put on-board the fleet, at the diſpoſition of the admiral; ſuch lieutenant-colonel and major to be the eldeſt in your garriſon.

No. III. *War Office, May* 12, 1756.

Sir, I wrote to you by General Steward; if that order is not complied with, then you are now to make a detachment of ſeven hundred men out of your own regiment and Guiſe's; and alſo another detachment out of Pulteney's and Panmure's regiments, and ſend them on-board the fleet for the relief of Mahon. But if that order has been complied with, then you are to make only one detachment of ſeven hundred men, to be commanded by another lieutenant-colonel and major, and to ſend it to Mahon; and you are alſo to detain all ſuch empty veſſels as ſhall come into your harbour, and keep them in readineſs for any further tranſportation of troops. I have alſo the Duke of Cumberland's commands, to deſire that you will keep your garriſon as alert as poſſible, during this critical time, and give ſuch other aſſiſtance as may be in your power for the relief of Minorca; taking care, however, not to fatigue or endanger your own garriſon."

Mr. Fowke, alleged in his own defence, that the orders were confuſed and contradictory, and implied a diſcretionary power: that the whole number of his garriſon did not exceed two thouſand ſix hundred men, after he had ſpared two hundred and ſeventy-five to the ſhips commanded by Mr. Edgecumbe; that the ordinary duty of the garriſon required eight hundred men, the whole number was not ſufficient for three reliefs: that, if he had detached a battalion on-board the fleet, he ſhould not have had above two reliefs, at a time when he believed the place was in danger of being attacked; that his orders being doubtful, he held a council of war, which was of opinion, that, as undoubted intelligence was received of the French army being landed at Minorca, to the number of between thirteen and ſixteen thouſand men, and that a French ſquadron of ſixteen ſhips was ſtationed off the harbour, the ſending a detachment, equal to a battalion, from Gibraltar, would be an ineffectual ſupply for the relief of the place, and a weakening of the garriſon from which they muſt be ſent. He obſerved, that ſuppoſing the orders to have been poſitive, and ſeven hundred men detached to Minorca, the number remaining at Gibraltar, would not have exceeded one thouſand five hundred and fifty-ſix: a deduction of ſeven hundred more, according to the order of May the twelfth, would have left a remainder of eight hundred and fifty-ſix: that the men daily on duty in the garriſon, including artificers, and labourers in the king's works, amounted to eight hundred and thirty-nine; ſo that if he had complied with the orders as they arrived, he would not have had more than ſeventeen men over and above the number neceſſary for the daily work of the garriſon: thus the important fortreſs of Gibraltar muſt, at this critical conjuncture, have been left almoſt naked and defenceleſs to the attempts of the enemy; and had thoſe detachments been actually ſent aboard, it afterwards appeared that they could not have been landed on the iſland of Minorca. The order tranſmitted to General Fowke to detain all empty veſſels, for a further tranſportation of troops, ſeems to have been ſuperfluous, for it can hardly be ſuppoſed he could have occaſion for them, unleſs to embark the whole garriſon, and abandon the place. It ſeems, likewiſe, to have been unneceſſary to exhort the general to keep his garriſon as alert as poſſible, during that critical time; inaſmuch as it would have been impoſſible for the men to have enjoyed the leaſt repoſe or intermiſſion of duty, had the orders been punctually and literally obeyed.—What other aſſiſtance it might have been in the governor's power to give for the relief of Minorca, or in what manner he could avoid fatiguing his garriſon, while there was an impoſſibility of relieving the guards, it is not eaſy to comprehend. Be that as it may, when the trial was finiſhed, and the queſtion put to acquit or ſuſpend for one year, the court was equally divided; and in ſuch caſes the caſting vote being veſted in the preſident, he threw it into the ſcale againſt the priſoner, whom his majeſty thought fit to diſmiſs from his ſervice.

The expectation of the public was now eagerly turned towards America, the chief if not the ſole ſcene of our military operations. On the 25th of June, 1756, Mr. Abercrombie arrived at Albany, the frontier of New York, and aſſumed the command of the forces there aſſembled. The plan of operations had been ſettled the preceding year, in a council of war, held at New York. There it was reſolved to attack the fort of Niagara, ſituated between the lakes Ontario and Erie, in order to cut off the communication between Canada and Louiſiana, and prevent the French from ſupporting their new fortreſſes on the Ohio; to reduce Ticonderago and Crown Point, ſo that the frontier of New York might be delivered from the danger of an invaſion, and Great Britain become maſter of the Lake Champlain, over which the forces might be tranſported in any future attempt: to beſiege Fort Du Queſne upon Ohio; and to detach a body of troops by the river Kennebec, to alarm the capital of Canada. This plan was too extenſive for the number of troops which had been prepared: the ſeaſon was too far advanced before the regiments arrived from England, the different colonies were divided in their opinions, and Mr. Abercrombie poſtponed the execution of any important ſcheme till the arrival of Lord Loudoun, who was daily expected. The reaſons that delayed the reinforcement, and detained his lordſhip ſo long, we do not pretend to explain; certain it is, the delay of this armament rendered it uſeleſs for a whole year, afforded time and leiſure to the enemy to take their precautions againſt any ſubſequent attack, and, in the mean time, to proceed unmoleſted in diſtreſſing the Britiſh ſettlements. Even before this period, they had attacked and reduced a ſmall poſt in the country of the Five Nations, occupied by twenty-five Engliſhmen, who were cruelly butchered to a man, in the midſt of thoſe Indians whom Great Britain had long numbered among her allies. Soon after this, having received intelligence that a conſiderable convoy of proviſions and ſtores, for the garriſon of Oſwego, would in a little time ſet out from Schenectady, and be convoyed in batteaux up the river Onondaga, they formed an ambuſcade among the woods and thickets on the north ſide of that river; but underſtanding the convoy had paſſed before they reached the place, they reſolved to wait the return of the detachment. Their deſign, however, was fruſtrated by the vigilance and valour of Colonel Bradſtreet, who expected ſuch an attempt, and had taken his meaſures accordingly. On the 3d of July, while he ſtemmed the ſtream of the river, with his batteaux, formed into three diviſions, they were ſaluted with the Indian war-whoop, and a general diſcharge of muſquetry from the north ſhore. Bradſtreet immediately ordered his men to land on the oppoſite bank, and with a few of the foremoſt took poſſeſſion of a ſmall iſland, where he was forthwith attacked by a party of the enemy, who had forded the river for that purpoſe; but theſe were ſoon repulſed. Another body having paſſed a mile higher, he advanced to them at the head of two hundred men, and fell upon them, ſword in hand, with ſuch vigour, that many were killed on the ſpot, and the reſt driven into the river, with ſuch precipitation that a conſiderable number of them was drowned. Having received information that a third body of them had paſſed at a ford ſtill higher, he marched thither without heſitation, and purſued them to the other ſide, where they were entirely routed and diſperſed. In this action, which laſted near three hours, about ſeventy of the batteaux men were killed or wounded, but the enemy loſt double the number killed, and above ſeventy taken priſoners. In all probability the whole detachment of the French, amounting to ſeven hundred men, would have been cut off, had not a heavy rain interpoſed, and diſabled Bradſtreet from following his blow; for that ſame night he was joined by Captain Patten with his grenadiers, in his march from Oneida to Oſwego, and next morning reinforced with two hundred men, detached to his aſſiſtance from the garriſon of Oſwego; but by this time the rivulets were ſo ſwelled by the rain, that it was found impracticable to purſue the enemy through the woods and thickets. Patten and his grenadiers accompanied the detachment to Oſwego, while Bradſtreet purſued his voyage to Schenectady, from whence he repaired to Albany, and communicated to General Abercrombie the intelligence he had received from the priſoners, that a large body of the enemy were encamped on the eaſtern ſide of the lake Ontario, provided with artillery, and all other implements, to beſiege the fort of Oſwego, the garriſon of which amounted to fourteen hundred ſoldiers, beſides three hundred workmen and ſailors, either in the forts, or poſted in ſmall parties between the fort and a place called Burnet's Field, to ſecure a ſafe paſſage through the country of the Six Nations, upon whoſe friendſhip there was no longer any reliance. By the beſt accounts received of the enemy's force they had about three thouſand men at Crown Point and Ticonderoga upon the Lake Champlain; but their chief ſtrength was collected upon the banks of the Lake Ontario, where their purpoſe undoubtedly was to reduce the Engliſh fort at Oſwego. The immediate object, therefore, was the relief of this place; but the deſign was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by the province of New York, and other northern governments, who were much more intent upon the reduction of Crown Point, and the ſecurity of their own frontiers, which they apprehended was connected with this conqueſt. At length they agreed, thas the regiment which Abercrombie had deſtined for that purpoſe ſhould be detached to the relief of Oſwego: and on the 12th of Auguſt, Major-general Webb began his march with it from Albany; but, on his arrival at the Carrying-place, between the Mohock's River and Wood's Creek, he received the diſagreeable news that Ontario was abandoned; and Oſwego taken, and the garriſon made priſoners of war. Webb, apprehending himſelf in danger of being attacked by the beſieging army, began immediately to render the creek impaſſable, even to canoes, by felling trees, and throwing them into the ſtream; while the enemy, ignorant of his numbers, and apprehenſive of a like viſitation from him, took the very ſame method of preventing his approach: in conſequence of this apprehenſion, he was permitted to retire unmoleſted.

The loſs of the two ſmall forts, called Ontario and Oſwego, was a conſiderable national misfortune. They were erected on the ſouth ſide of the great lake Ontario, ſtanding on the oppoſite ſides, at the mouth of the Onondago river, that diſcharges itſelf into the lake, and conſtituted a poſt of great importance, where veſſels had been built, to cruize upon the lake, which is a kind of inland ſea, and interrupt the commerce as well as the motions and deſigns of the enemy. The victors immediately demoliſhed theſe two forts, (if they deſerved that denomination,) in which they found one hundred and twenty-one pieces of artillery, fourteen mortars, with a great quantity of ammunition, warlike ſtores, and proviſions, beſides two ſloops, and two hundred batteaux, which likewiſe fell into their hands.

Loudoun, finding the ſeaſon too far advanced to admit of any enterprize againſt the enemy, exerted all his endeavours in making preparations for an early campaign in the ſpring. Forts Edward and William Henry were put in a proper poſture of defence, and ſecured by numerous garriſons; and the forces put into winter quarters at Albany, where comfortable barracks were built for that purpoſe. Fort Glanville, on the confines of Pennſylvania, an inconſiderable block-houſe, was ſurprized by a party of French and Indians, who made the garriſon priſoners, conſiſting of twenty-two ſoldiers, with a few women and children. Theſe they loaded with flour and proviſions, and drove them into captivity; but the fort they reduced to aſhes. Many ſhocking murders were perpetrated upon defenceleſs people, without diſtinction of age or ſex, in different parts of the frontiers: but theſe outrages were in ſome meaſure balanced by the advantages reſulting from a treaty, which the governor of Pennſylvania concluded with the Delaware Indians, a powerful tribe that dwell upon the river Saſquehanna, forming, as it were, a line along the ſouthern ſkirts of the province. At the ſame time the governor of Virginia ſecured the friendſhip and alliance of the Cherokees and Catawbas, two powerful nations adjoining to that colony, who were able to bring three thouſand fighting men into the field.

No action of great importance diſtinguiſhed the naval tranſactions of this year on the ſide of America. In the beginning of June, Captain Spry, who commanded a ſmall ſquadron, cruiſing off Louiſbourg, in the iſland of Cape Breton, took the Arc en Ciel, a French ſhip of fifty guns, having on-board near ſix hundred men, with a large quantity of ſtores and proviſions for the garriſon. He likewiſe made prize of another French ſhip, with ſeventy ſoldiers, two hundred barrels of powder, two large braſs mortars, and other ſtores of the like deſtination.—On the 27th of July, Commodore Holmes, being in the ſame latitude, with two large ſhips and a couple of ſloops, engaged two French ſhips of the line and four frigates, and obliged them to ſheer off, after an obſtinate diſpute. A great number of privateers were equipped in this country, as well as in the Weſt-India iſlands belonging to the crown of Great Britain; and as thoſe ſeas ſwarmed with French veſſels, their cruiſes proved very advantageous to the adventurers.

Scenes of higher import were this year acted by the Britiſh arms in the Eaſt-Indies. The ceſſation of hoſtilities between the Engliſh and French companies on the peninſula of Indus, though it encouraged Mr. Clive to viſit his native country, was not of long duration; for in a few months both ſides recommenced their operations, no longer as auxiliaries to the princes of the country, but as principals and rivals, both in arms and commerce. Major Laurence, who now enjoyed the chief command of the Engliſh forces, obtained divers advantages over the enemy; and proſecuted his ſucceſs with ſuch vigour, as, in all probability, would in a little time have terminated the war according to his own wiſh, when the progreſs of his arms was interrupted and ſuſpended by an unfortunate event at Calcutta, the cauſe of which is not eaſily explained: for extraordinary pains have been taken to throw a veil over ſome tranſactions, from whence this calamity was immediately or remotely derived.

The old ſuba or viceroy of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, dying in the month of April, 1756, was ſucceeded by his adopted ſon, Raja al Dowlat, a young man of violent paſſions, without principle, fortitude, or good faith, who began his adminiſtration with acts of perfidy and violence. In all probability, his deſign againſt the Engliſh ſettlements was ſuggeſted by his rapacious diſpoſition, on a belief that they abounded with treaſure; as the pretences which he uſed for commencing hoſtilities were altogether inconſiſtent, falſe, and frivolous. In the month of May, he cauſed the Engliſh factory at Caſſimbuzar to be inveſted, and inviting Mr. Watts, the chief of the factory, to a conference, under the ſanction of a ſafe conduct, detained him as priſoner; then, by means of fraud and force intermingled, made himſelf maſter of the factory. This exploit being atchieved, he made no ſecret of his deſign to deprive the Engliſh of all their ſettlements. With this view he marched to Calcutta, at the head of a numerous army, and inveſted the place, which was then in no poſture of defence. The governor, intimidated by the number and power of the enemy, abandoned the fort, and, with ſome principal perſons reſiding in the ſettlement, took refuge on-board a ſhip in the river, carrying along with them their moſt valuable effects, and the books of the company.

The defence of the place now devolved to Mr. Holwell, the ſecond in command, who, with the aſſiſtance of a few gallant officers, and a very feeble garriſon, maintained it with uncommon courage and reſolution againſt ſeveral attacks, until he was overpowered by numbers, and the enemy had forced their way into the caſtle. Then he was obliged to ſubmit; and the viceroy promiſed, on the word of a ſoldier, that no injury ſhould be done to him or his garriſon: Nevertheleſs, they were all driven, to the number of one hundred and forty-ſix perſons of both ſexes, into a place called the Black Hole priſon, a cube about eighteen feet, walled up to the eaſtward and ſouthward, the only quarters from which they could expect the leaſt refreſhing air, and open to the weſtward by two windows ſtrongly barred with iron, through which there was no perceptible circulation. The humane reader will conceive with horror the miſerable ſituation to which they muſt have been reduced, when thus ſtewed up in a cloſe ſultry night under ſuch a climate as that of Bengal, eſpecially when he reflects that many of them were wounded, and all of them fatigued with hard duty. Tranſported with rage to find themſelves thus barbarouſly cooped up in a place where they muſt be expoſed to ſuffocation, thoſe helpleſs victims endeavoured to force open the door, that they might ruſh upon the ſwords of the barbarians by whom they were ſurrounded: but all their efforts were ineffectual: the door was made to open inwards, and, being once ſhut upon them, the crowd preſſed upon it ſo ſtrongly as to render all their endeavours abortive: when they were overwhelmed with diſtraction and deſpair, Mr. Holwell, who had placed himſelf at one of the windows, accoſted a ſerjeant of the Indian guard, and having endeavoured to excite his compaſſion, by drawing a pathetic picture of their ſufferings, promiſed to gratify him with a thouſand rupees in the morning, if he could find means to remove one half of them into a ſeparate apartment. The ſoldier, allured by the promiſe of ſuch a reward, aſſured him he would do his endeavour for their relief, and retired for that purpoſe, but in a few minutes returned, and told him that the viceroy, by whoſe order alone ſuch a ſtep could be taken, was aſleep, and no perſon durſt diſturb his repoſe. By this time a profuſe ſweat had broke out on every individual, and this was attended with an inſatiable thirſt, which became more intolerable as the body was drained of its moiſture. In vain thoſe miſerable objects ſtripped themſelves of their clothes, ſquatted down on their hams, and fanned the air with their hats, to produce a refreſhing undulation. Many were unable to riſe again from this poſture, but falling down were trod to death, or ſuffocated. The dreadful ſymptom of thirſt was now accompanied with a difficulty of reſpiration, and every individual gaſped for breath. Their deſpair became outrageous: again they attempted to force the door, and provoke the guard to fire upon them by execration and abuſe. The cry of "Water! Water!" iſſued from every mouth. Even the ſerjeant was moved to compaſſion at their diſtreſs. He ordered his ſoldiers to bring ſome ſkins of water, which ſerved only to enrage the appetite, and increaſe the general agitation. There was no other way of conveying it through the windows but by hats, and this was rendered ineffectual by the eagerneſs and tranſports of the wretched priſoners, who at ſight of it ſtruggled and raved even into fits of delirium. In conſequence of theſe conteſts, very little reached thoſe who ſtood neareſt the windows, while the reſt, at the farther end of the priſon, were totally excluded from all relief, and continued calling upon their friends for aſſiſtance, and conjuring them by all the tender ties of pity and affection. To thoſe who were indulged it proved pernicious; for, inſtead of allaying their thirſt, it enraged their impatience for more. The confuſion became general and horrid; all was clamour and conteſt; thoſe who were at a diſtance endeavoured to force their paſſage to the window, and the weak were preſſed down to the ground, never to riſe again. The inhuman ruffians without derived entertainment from their miſery: they ſupplied the priſoners with more water, and held up lights cloſe to the bars that they might enjoy the inhuman pleaſure of ſeeing them fight for the baneful indulgence. Mr. Holwell ſeeing all his particular friends lying dead around him, and trampled upon by the living, finding himſelf wedged up ſo cloſe as to be deprived of all motion, begged, as the laſt inſtance of their regard, that they would remove the preſſure, and allow him to retire from the window, that he might die in quiet. Even in thoſe dreadful circumſtances, which might be ſuppoſed to have levelled all diſtinction, the poor wretches manifeſted their reſpect for his rank and character: they forthwith gave way, and he forced his paſſage into the centre of the place, which was not crowded ſo much, becauſe, by this time, about one-third of their number had periſhed, and lay in little compaſs on the floor, while the reſt ſtill crowded to both windows. He retired to a platform at the farther end of the room, and lying down, upon ſome of his dead friends, recommended his ſoul to heaven. Here his thirſt grew inſupportable: his difficulty in breathing increaſed, and he was ſeized with a ſtrong palpitation. Theſe violent ſymptoms, urged him to make another effort: he forced his way back to the window, and cried aloud, "Water!

"Water, for God's ſake!" He had been ſuppoſed already dead by his wretched companions; but, finding him ſtill alive, they exhibited another extraordinary proof of tenderneſs and regard to his perſon: "Give him the water," they cried; nor would one of them attempt to touch it until he had drunk. He now breathed more freely, and the palpitation ceaſed: but, finding himſelf ſtill more thirſty after drinking, he abſtained from water, and moiſtened his mouth from time to time, by ſucking the perſpiration from his ſhirt ſleeves. The miſerable priſoners, perceiving that water rather aggravated than relieved their diſtreſs, grew clamorous for air, and repeated their inſults to the guard, loading the ſuba and his government with the moſt virulent reproach. From railing, they had recourſe to prayer, beſeeching heaven to put an end to their miſery. They now began to drop on all hands; but then a ſteam aroſe from the living, and the dead, as pungent and volatile as ſpirits of hartſhorn; ſo that all who could not approach the windows were ſuffocated. Mr. Holwell, being weary of life, retired once more to the platform, and ſtretched himſelf by the Rev. Mr. Jarvas Bellamy, who, together with his ſon, a lieutenant, lay dead in each other's embrace. In this ſituation he was ſoon deprived of ſenſe, and lay to all appearance dead till day broke, when his body was diſcovered, and removed by his ſurviving friends to one of the windows, where the freſh air revived him, and he was reſtored to his ſight and ſenſes. The ſuba, at laſt, being informed that the greater part of the priſoners were ſuffocated, enquired if the chief was alive; and being anſwered in the affirmative, he ſent an order for their immediate releaſe, when no more than twenty-three ſurvived of an hundred and forty-ſix who had entered alive.

Nor was the late deliverance, even of theſe few, owing to any ſentiment of compaſſion in the viceroy. He had received intimation that there was conſiderable treaſure ſecreted in the fort, and that Mr. Holwell knew the place where it was depoſited. That gentleman, who, with his ſurviving companions, had been ſeized with a putrid fever, immediately upon their releaſe, was dragged in that condition before the inhuman ſuba, who queſtioned him about the treaſure, which exiſted no where but in his own imagination; and would give no credit to his proteſtations, when he ſolemnly declared he knew of no ſuch depoſit. Mr. Holwell, and three of his friends were loaded with fetters, and conveyed three miles to the Indian camp, where they lay all night, expoſed to a ſevere rain: next morning they were brought back to town, ſtill manacled, under the ſcorching beams of a ſun intenſely hot; and muſt infallibly have expired, had not nature expelled the fever in large painful boils, that covered almoſt the whole body. In this piteous condition they were embarked in an open boat for Muxadavad, the capital of Bengal, and underwent ſuch cruel treatment and miſery in their paſſage, as would ſhock the humane reader, ſhould he purſue the particulars. At Muxadavad they were led through the city in chains, as a ſpectacle to the inhabitants, lodged in an open ſtable, and treated for ſome days as the worſt of criminals. At length, the ſuba's grandmother interpoſed her mediation in their behalf; and as that prince was by this time convinced, that there was no treaſure concealed at Calcutta, he ordered them to be ſet at liberty. When ſome of his ſycophants oppoſed this indulgence, repreſenting that Mr. Holwell had ſtill enough left to pay a conſiderable ranſom, he replied with ſome marks of compunction and generoſity, "If he has any thing left, let him keep it: his ſufferings have been great: he ſhall have his liberty." Mr. Holwell and his friends were no ſooner unfettered, than they took water for the Dutch tankſall or mint, in the neighbourhood of the city, where they were received with great tenderneſs and humanity.

The ſuba having deſtroyed Calcutta, and diſperſed the inhabitants, extorted large ſums from the French and Dutch factories, that he might diſplay a ſpirit of impartiality againſt all the Europeans, even in his oppreſſion, and returned to his city of Muxadavad in triumph. By the reduction of Calcutta, the Engliſh Eaſt-India company's affairs were ſo much embroiled in that part of the world, that perhaps nothing could have retrieved them but a national force, and the good fortune of a Clive, whoſe enterprizes were always crowned with ſucceſs.

As the Engliſh Eaſt-India company had, for a whole century, been at conſiderable expence in maintaining a marine force at Bombay, to protect their ſhips from the piracies of the Angrias, who had rendered themſelves independent princes, and fortified Geriah in that neighbourhood; many unſucceſsful attempts had been made to deſtroy their naval power and reduce the fortreſs, under which they always took ſhelter. In the year 1754, the fleet of Tullagee Angria, the reigning prince, attacked three Dutch ſhips of force, which they either took or deſtroyed. Elated with this ſucceſs, he boaſted that he ſhould in a little time ſweep the ſeas of the Europeans, and began to build ſome large ſhips, to reinforce his grabs and gallivats, which were the veſſels on which he had formerly depended. Next year, his neighbours, the Mahrattas, having ſignified to the preſidency at Bombay, that they were diſpoſed to join in the neceſſary ſervice of humbling this common enemy, ſo formidable to the whole Malabar coaſt, Commodore James was detached with ſome ſhips of force to attack Angria, in conjunction with thoſe allies. They accordingly joined him with ſeven grabs and ſixty gallivats. They proceeded to the harbour of Severndroog, where Angria's fleet lay at anchor: but they no ſooner received intelligence of his approach than they ſlipped their cables, and ſtood out to ſea. He chaſed them with all the canvaſs he could carry; but their veſſels being lighter than his they eſcaped; and he returned to Severndroog, which is a fortreſs ſituated on an iſland within muſket-ſhot of the main land, ſtrongly but irregularly fortified, and mounted with fifty-four pieces of cannon. There were three other ſmall forts on the continent, the largeſt of which was called Goa. On the 2d of April the commodore began to batter and bombard the iſland, fort, and fort Goa, at the ſame time. That of Severndroog was ſet on fire; one of the magazines blew up: a general conflagration enſued: the garriſon were overwhelmed with fire and confuſion: the Engliſh ſeamen landed under cover of the fire from the ſhips, and took the place by ſtorm with very little loſs. The other forts were immediately ſurrendered, and all of theſe, by treaty, delivered up to the Mahrattas. On the 8th of April, the commodore anchored off Bancote, now called Fort Victoria, one of the moſt northern parts of Angria's dominions, which ſurrendered without oppoſition, and ſtill remains in the hands of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company, by the conſent of the Mahrattas. The harbour is good, and here is a great trade for ſalt and other commodities ſent hither from Bombay.

It was in November following, that the ſquadron under Admiral Watſon arrived at Bombay, where it was reſolved to give Angria a finiſhing ſtroke, ſtill in conjunction with the Mahrattas. Meanwhile Commodore James was ſent to reconnoitre Geriah, the capital of his dominion, and to ſound the depth of the harbour; a ſervice which he ſucceſsfully performed. The admiral, being joined by a diviſion of ſhips, fitted out at the company's expence, having on-board a body of troops commanded by Colonel Clive, ſailed on the 7th of February, and found in the neighbourhood of Geriah the Mahratta fleet, conſiſting of four grabs, and forty ſmaller veſſels, called gallivats, lying to the northward of the place, in a creek called Rajipore; and a land-army of horſe and foot, amounting to ſeven or eight thouſand men, the whole commanded by Rhamagee Punt, who had already taken one ſmall fort, and was actually treating about the ſurrender of Geriah. Angria himſelf had quitted the place, but his wife and family remained under the protection of his brother-in-law; who, being ſummoned to ſurrender by a meſſage from the admiral, replied, that he would defend the place to the laſt extremity. In conſequence of this refuſal, the whole Engliſh fleet, in two diviſions, ſailed on the 12th of February into the harbour, and ſuſtained a warm fire from the enemy's batteries as they paſſed, as well as from the grabs poſted in the harbour for that purpoſe: this, however, was ſoon ſilenced after the ſhips were brought to their ſtations, ſo as to return the ſalutation. Between the hours of four and five in the afternoon, a ſhell, being thrown into one of Angria's armed veſſels, ſet her on fire; and, the flames communicating to the reſt, they were all deſtroyed: between ſix and ſeven the fort was ſet on fire by another ſhell; and ſoon after the firing ceaſed on both ſides. The admiral, ſuſpecting that the governor of the place would ſurrender it to the Mahrattas rather than to the Engliſh, diſembarked all the troops under Mr. Clive, that he might be at hand, in caſe of emergency, to take poſſeſſion. In the mean time, the fort was bombarded; the line-of-battle ſhips were warped near enough to batter in breach; and then the admiral ſent an officer, with a flag of truce to the governor, requiring him to ſurrender. His propoſals being again rejected, the Engliſh ſhips renewed their fire next day with redoubled vigour. About one o'clock the magazine of the fort blew up, and at four the garriſon hung out a white flag for capitulation. The parley that enſued proving ſtill ineffectual, the engagement began again, and continued till fifteen minutes after five; when the white flag was again diſplayed, and now the governor ſubmitted to the terms which were impoſed. Angria's flag was immediately hauled down, and two Engliſh captains, taking poſſeſſion of the fort with a detachment, forthwith hoiſted the Britiſh enſign. To theſe captains, whoſe names were Buchannan and Forbes, the Mahrattas offered a bribe of fifty thouſand rupees, if they would allow them to paſs their guard, that they might take poſſeſſion of the fort for themſelves; but this offer was rejected with diſdain, and immediately diſcloſed to Colonel Clive, who took effectual meaſures to fruſtrate their deſign. In this place, which was reduced with very inconſiderable loſs, the conquerors found above two hundred cannon, ſix braſs mortars, a large quantity of ammunition, with money and effects to the value of 130,000l. The fleet which was deſtroyed conſiſted of eight grabs, one ſhip finiſhed, two upon the ſtocks, and a good number of gallivats. Among the priſoners, were Angria's wife, children, and mother. When the admiral entered their apartment, the whole family, ſhedding floods of tears, fell with their faces to the ground; from which being raiſed, the mother of Angria, told him, in a piteous tone, the people had no king, ſhe no ſon, her daughter no huſband, their children no father. The admiral replying, "they muſt look upon him as their father and their friend;" the youngeſt boy, about ſix years of age, ſeized him by the hand, and ſobbing exclaimed, then you "ſhall be my father." Mr. Watſon was ſo affected with this pathetic addreſs, that the tears trickled down his cheeks, while he aſſured them, they might depend upon his his protection and friendſhip.

Three hundred European ſoldiers, and as many ſepoys, were left to guard the fort; and four of the company's armed veſſels remained in the harbour for the defence of the place, which was extremely well ſituated for commerce. The admiral and Mr. Clive then ſailed back to Madras in triumph, and there another plan was formed for reſtoring the company's affairs upon the Ganges, recovering Calcutta, and taking vengeance on the chief viceroy of Bengal. In October they ſet ſail again for the bottom of the bay; and about the beginning of December arrived at Balaſore, in the kingdom of Bengal. Having croſſed the Braces, they proceeded up the river Ganges as far as Falta, where they found Governor Drake, and the other perſons who had eſcaped on-board the ſhips when Calcutta was inveſted. Colonel Clive was diſembarked with his forces to attack the fort of Buſbudgia by land, while the admiral battered it by ſea: but the place, being ill provided with cannon, did not hold out above an hour after the firing began. This conqueſt being atchieved at a very eaſy purchaſe, two of the great ſhips anchored between Tanny fort and a battery on the other ſide of the river, which were abandoned before one ſhot was diſcharged againſt either; thus the paſſage was laid open to Calcutta, the reduction of which we ſhall record among the tranſactions of the enſuing year.

We ſhall now return to Europe, and endeavour to explain the beginning of a bloody war in Germany, which then ſeemed to have become the chief object of the Britiſh councils.

After the conqueſt of Minorca, the French declared that they would revenge all injuries they ſhould ſuſtain in their colonies on the king of Great Britain's dominions in Germany. Upon this, the court of London, eager to preſerve Hanover, entered into a treaty with the court of Ruſſia, by which it was ſtipulated, that a body of fifty thouſand Ruſſians ſhould be ready to act in the Britiſh ſervice, in caſe Hanover ſhould be invaded by the French. For this the czarina was to receive 100,000l. annually, to be paid in advance. This treaty was oppoſed by the King of Pruſſia. He had long conſidered himſelf as guardian of the intereſts of Germany, and was therefore alarmed at a treaty which threatened to deluge the empire with an army of barbarians. Beſides, he was already appriſed of an agreement between the Auſtrians and Ruſſians, by which the latter were to enter the empire and ſtrip him of his late conqueſt of Sileſia. He therefore declared, that he would not ſuffer any foreign forces to enter the empire, either as auxiliaries or principals. The King of Britain now found himſelf obliged to drop his Ruſſian connection, and conclude a treaty with Pruſſia. As both monarchs wiſhed only to prevent the invaſion of Germany, they ſoon came to an agreement to aſſiſt each other mutually. From this alliance a new combination took place among the European powers, quite oppoſite to the former; and their forces were drawn out in the following manner. Britain oppoſed France in America, Aſia, and on the ocean. France attacked Hanover; which the King of Pruſſia undertook to protect, while Britain promiſed him troops and money to aſſiſt his operations. Auſtria had their aims on the dominions of Pruſſia, and drew the Elector of Saxony (King of Poland) into the ſame deſigns. In theſe views the Auſtrians were ſeconded by France, Sweden, and Ruſſia, who had hopes of acquiring a ſettlement in the weſt of Europe.

Thus the King of Pruſſia launched into the tumult of war, having only the King of Britain for his ally, while the moſt potent ſtates of Europe were his antagoniſts, and he now performed exploits perhaps unequalled in the annals of modern ages. In order to be before-hand with his enemies, or at leaſt to keep the war out of his own country, he at once marched with a powerful army into Saxony. He reſolved to penetrate through that country into Bohemia, and even to take poſſeſſion of it as a frontier, as well as for the convenience of ingreſs and egreſs to and from the Auſtrian dominions. Beſides, as he had reaſon to believe the King of Poland, as elector of Saxony, was connected with the czarina and the empreſs queen, he thought it would be impolitic to leave that prince in any condition to give him the leaſt diſturbance. His army entered the Saxon territory towards the latter end of Auguſt, 1756, when he publiſhed a declaration, importing, that the unjuſt conduct and dangerous views of the court of Vienna againſt his majeſty's dominions laid him under the neceſſity of taking proper meaſures for protecting his territories and ſubjects; that for this purpoſe he could not forbear taking the diſagreeable reſolution to enter with his troops the hereditary dominions of his majeſty the King of Poland, Elector of Saxony: but he proteſted before God and man, that on account of his perſonal eſteem and friendſhip for that prince, he would not have proceeded to this extremity, had he not been forced to it by the laws of war, the fatality of the preſent conjuncture, and the neceſſity of providing for the defence and ſecurity of his ſubjects. He reminded the public with the tenderneſs with which he had treated the Elector of Saxony during the campaign of the year 1744, and of the bad conſequences reſulting to that monarch from his engagements with the enemies of Pruſſia. He declared that the apprehenſions of being expoſed again to ſuch enterpriſes, had obliged him to take thoſe precautions which prudence dictated: but he proteſted in the moſt ſolemn manner, that he had no hoſtile views againſt his Poliſh majeſty, or his dominions: that his troops did not enter Saxony as enemies, and he had taken care that they ſhould obſerve the beſt order, and the moſt exact diſcipline: that he deſired nothing more ardently, than the happy minute that ſhould procure him the ſatisfaction of reſtoring to his Poliſh majeſty his hereditary dominions, which he had ſeized only as a ſacred depoſitum.—By his miniſter at Dreſden, he had demanded a free paſſage for his forces through the Saxon dominions; and this the King of Poland was ready to grant, with reaſonable limitations, to be ſettled by commiſſaries appointed for that purpoſe. But theſe were formalities which did not at all ſuit his Pruſſian majeſty's diſpoſition or deſign. Even before this requiſition was made, a body of his troops amounting to fifteen thouſand, under the command of Prince Ferdinand, brother to the Duke of Brunſwick, took poſſeſſion of Leipſic, on the 20th of September. Here he publiſhed a declaration, ſignifying, that it was his Pruſſian majeſty's intention to conſider and defend the inhabitants of that electorate as if they were his own ſubjects; and that he had given preciſe orders to his troops to obſerve the moſt exact diſcipline. As the firſt mark of his affection, he ordered them to provide the army with all ſorts of proviſion, according to a certain rate, on pain of military execution. That ſame evening notice was given to the corporation of merchants, that their deputies ſhould pay all taxes and cuſtoms to the King of Pruſſia: then he took poſſeſſion of the cuſtom-houſe and exciſe-office, and ordered the magazines of corn and meal to be opened for the uſe of his ſoldiers.

The King of Poland, apprehenſive of ſuch a viſitation, had ordered all his troops of his electorate to leave their quarters, and aſſemble in a ſtrong camp marked out for them, between Pirna and Konigſtein, which was entrenched, and provided with a numerous train of artillery. Thither the King of Poland repaired, with his two ſons Xaverius and Charles; but the queen and the reſt of the royal family remained at Dreſden. Of this capital his Pruſſian majeſty, with the bulk of his army, took poſſeſſion on the 8th of September, when he was viſited by Lord Stormont, the Engliſh ambaſſador at that court, accompanied by Count Salmour, a Saxon miniſter, who, in his maſter's name, propoſed a neutrality. The

King of Pruſſia profeſſed himſelf extremely well pleaſed with the propoſal; and, as the moſt convincing proof of his neutrality, deſired the King of Poland would ſeparate his army, by ordering his troops to return to their former quarters. Auguſtus did not like to be ſo tutored in his own dominions: he depended for his own ſafety more upon the valour and attachment of his troops thus aſſembled, than upon the friendſhip of a prince who had invaded his dominions, and ſequeſtered his revenue without provocation; and he truſted too much to the ſituation of his camp at Pirna, which was deemed impregnable. In the mean time, the King of Pruſſia fixed his head-quarters at Seidlitz, about half a German league diſtant from Pirna, and poſted his army in ſuch a manner, as to be able to intercept all convoys of proviſion deſigned for the Saxon camp: his forces extended on the right towards the frontiers of Bohemia, and the van-guard actually ſeized the paſſes that lead to the circles of Satzer and Leutmeritz, in that kingdom; while Prince Ferdinand of Brunſwick marched with a body of troops along the Elbe, and took poſt at this laſt place without oppoſition. At the ſame time, the king covered his own dominions, by aſſembling two conſiderable bodies in Upper and Lower Sileſia, which occupied the paſſes that communicated with the circles of Buntzlau and Koningſgratz. Hoſtilities were commenced on the 13th of September, by a detachment of Pruſſian huſſars, who attacked an Auſtrian eſcorte to a convoy of proviſions, deſigned for the Saxon camp; and, having routed them, carried off a conſiderable number of loaded waggons. The magazines at Dreſden were filled with an immenſe quantity of proviſion and forage for the Pruſſian army, and the bakers were ordered to prepare a vaſt quantity of proviſion of bread, for which purpoſe thirty new ovens were erected. When the King of Pruſſia firſt arrived at Dreſden, he lodged at the houſe of the

Counteſs Moczinſka; and gave orders that the queen and royal family of Poland ſhould be treated with all due veneration and reſpect: even while the Saxon camp was blocked up on every ſide, he ſometimes permitted a waggon, loaded with freſh proviſion and game, to paſs unmoleſted, for the uſe of his Poliſh majeſty.

During theſe tranſactions, the greateſt part of the Pruſſian army advanced into Bohemia, under the command of Field-marſhal Keith, who reduced the town and palace of Tetchen, took poſſeſſion of all the paſſes, and encamped near Auſſig, a ſmall town in Bohemia, at no great diſtance from the Imperial army, amounting to fifty thouſand men, commanded by Count Brown, an officer of Iriſh extract, who had often diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the field by his courage, vigilance, and conduct. His Pruſſian majeſty, having left a conſiderable body of troops for the blockade of Pirna, aſſumed in perſon the command of Marſhal Keith's corps, and advanced to give battle to the enemy. On the 29th of September he formed his troops in two columns, and in the evening arrived with his van at Welmina, from whence he ſaw the Auſtrian army poſted with its right at Lowoſchutz, and its left towards Egra. The Pruſſians were only 25,000 men; the Auſtrians were 60,000. The King of Pruſſia, having occupied with ſix battalions a hollow way, and ſome riſing grounds, which commanded the town of Lowoſchutz, remained all night under arms at Welmina; and on the firſt of October, early in the morning, formed his whole army in order of battle; the firſt line conſiſting of the infantry, occupying two hills, and a bottom betwixt them; the ſecond line being formed of ſome battalions, and the third compoſed of the whole cavalry. The Auſtrian general had taken poſſeſſion of Lowoſchutz, with a great body of infantry, and placed a battery of cannon in front of the town: he had formed his cavalry chequerwiſe, in a line between Lowoſchutz, and the village of Sanſchitz; and poſted about two thouſand Croats and irregulars in the vineyards and avenues on his right. The morning was darkened with a thick fog, which vaniſhed about ſeven: then the Pruſſian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy's horſe; but received ſuch a fire from the irregulars, poſted in vineyards and ditches, as well as from a numerous artillery, that they were obliged to retire for protection to the rear of the Pruſſian infantry and cannon. There, being formed, and led back to the charge, they made an impreſſion on the Auſtrian cavalry, and drove the irregulars, and other bodies of infantry, from the ditches, defiles, and vineyards, which they poſſeſſed: but they ſuffered ſo ſeverely in this dangerous ſervice, that the king ordered them to re-aſcend the hill, and take poſt again behind the infantry, from whence they no more advanced. In the mean time a furious cannonading was maintained on both ſides with conſiderable effect. At length the left of the Pruſſian infantry was ordered to attack the town of Lowoſchutz in flank; but met with a very warm reception, and, in all likelihood, would have miſcarried, had not Keith headed them in perſon: when he drew his ſword, and told them he would lead them on, he was given to underſtand that all their powder and ſhot were exhauſted; he turned immediately to them with a cheerful countenance, ſaid he was very glad they had no more ammunition, being well aſſured the enemy could not withſtand them at puſh of bayonet; ſo ſaying, he advanced at their head, and, driving the Auſtrians from Lowoſchutz, ſet the ſuburbs on fire. The infantry had been already obliged to quit the eminence on the right; and now their whole army retired to Budin, on the other ſide of the Egra.

The battle began at ſeven in the morning and ended at three in the afternoon. The Auſtrians had between ſix and ſeven thouſand men killed and wounded, about five hundred taken priſoners, with the loſs of five pieces of cannon and three pair of colours. The Pruſſians had two thouſand men killed and wounded. By this victory, Marſhal Brown was prevented from relieving the Saxon army at Pirna: and thoſe troops, conſiſting of ſixteen thouſand men, were ſoon after obliged to ſurrender priſoners of war to his Pruſſian majeſty, who thereby got poſſeſſion of all Saxony. Such is the detail of the action, publiſhed at Berlin, which adds, that the King of Pruſſia not only gained the battle, but that ſame day eſtabliſhed his head-quarters at Lowoſchutz: whereas the Auſtrian gazette affirms, that Count Brown obliged his Pruſſian majeſty to retire, and remained all night on the field of battle; but next day, finding his troops in want of water, he repaired to the camp at Budin.

The Pruſſian army having rejoined that body which had been left to block up the Saxons at Pirna, his Poliſh majeſty and his troops were reduced to ſuch extremity of want, that it became indiſpenſibly neceſſary either to attempt an eſcape, or ſurrender to the King of Pruſſia. The former part of the alternative was choſen, and the plan concerted with Count Brown, the Auſtrian general, who, in order to facilitate the execution, advanced privately with a body of troops to Lichtendorf, near Schandeau; but the junction could not be effected. On the 14th of October, the Saxons threw a bridge of boats over the Elbe, near Konigſtein, to which caſtle they removed all their artillery; then ſtriking their tents in the night, paſſed the river undiſcovered by the enemy. They continued to retreat with all poſſible expedition; but the roads were ſo bad, they made little progreſs. Next day, when part of them had advanced about half way up a hill oppoſite Konigſtein, and the reſt were entangled in a narrow plain, where there was no room to act, they perceived that the Pruſſians were in poſſeſſion of all the paſſes, and found themſelves ſurrounded on every ſide, fainting with hunger and fatigue, and deſtitute of every convenience. In this deplorable condition they remained, when the King of Poland, from the fortreſs of Konigſtein, ſent a letter to his general, Count Rutowſki, veſting him with full and diſcretionary power to ſurrender, or take ſuch other meaſures as he ſhould judge moſt conducive to the preſervation of the officers and ſoldiers. By this time Count Brown had retired to Budin, ſo that there was no choice left. A capitulation was demanded: but, in effect, the whole Saxon army was obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion: and the ſoldiers were afterwards, by compulſion, incorporated with the troops of Pruſſia. The King of Poland, being thus deprived of his electoral dominions, his troops, arms, artillery, and ammunition, thought it high time to provide for his own ſafety, and retired with all expedition to Poland. His Pruſſian majeſty cantoned his forces in the neighbourhood of Seidlitz, and along the Elbe towards Dreſden. His other army, which had entered Bohemia, under the command of Count de Ichwerin, retired to the confines of the county of Glatz, where they were diſtributed in quarters of cantonment; ſo that this ſhort campaign was finiſhed by the beginning of November.

In England, the dearth of corn, ariſing in a great meaſure from the iniquitous practice of engroſſing, was ſo ſeverely felt by the common people, that inſurrections were raiſed in Shropſhire and Warwickſhire by the populace, in conjunction with the colliers, who ſeized by violence all the proviſion they could find; pillaging, without diſtinction, the millers, farmers, grocers, and butchers, until they were diſperſed by the gentlemen of the country, at the head of their tenants and dependents. Diſorders of the ſame nature were excited by the colliers in the foreſt of Dean, and thoſe employed in the works in Cumberland. The corporations, noblemen, and gentlemen, in different parts of the kingdom, exerted themſelves for the relief of the poor, who were greatly diſtreſſed; and a grand council being aſſembled at St.

James's on the ſame ſubject, a proclamation was publiſhed, for putting the laws in ſpeedy and effectual execution againſt the foreſtallers and engroſſers of corn.

The fear of an invaſion having now ſubſided, and Hanover being ſuppoſed in greater danger than Great Britain, the auxiliaries of that electorate were tranſported from England to their own country. At the latter end of the ſeaſon, when the weather became ſevere, the innkeepers of England refuſed to admit the Heſſian ſoldiers into winter quarters, as no proviſion had been made for that purpoſe by act of parliament; ſo that they were obliged to hut their camp, and remain in the open fields till January, when an act of parliament was paſſed for their relief.

On the 2d of December, his majeſty opened the ſeſſion of parliament with a ſpeech that ſeemed to be dictated by the genius of England. He expreſſed his confidence, that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, the union, fortitude, and affection, of his people would enable him to ſurmount all difficulties, and vindicate the dignity of his crown againſt the ancient enemy of Great Britain. He declared, that the ſuccour and preſervation of America conſtituted a main object of his attention and ſolicitude; and obſerved, that the growing dangers to which the Britiſh colonies might ſtand expoſed, from late loſſes in that country, demanded reſolutions of vigour and diſpatch. He ſaid, an adequate and firm defence at home ſhould maintain the chief place in his thoughts; and in this great view he had nothing ſo much at heart as to remove all grounds of diſſatisfaction from his people: for this end, he recommended to the care and diligence of the parliament the framing of a national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the juſt rights of his crown and people; an inſtitution which might become one good reſource in time of general danger. He took notice that the unnatural union of councils abroad, the calamities which, in conſequence of this unhappy conjunction, might, by irruptions of foreign armies into the empire, ſhake its conſtitution, overturn its ſyſtem, and threaten oppreſſion to the proteſtant intereſt on the continent, were events which muſt ſenſibly affect the minds of the Britiſh nation, and had fixed the eyes of Europe on this new and dangerous criſis. He gave them to underſtand that the body of his electoral troops, which were brought hither at the deſire of his parliament, he had now directed to return to his dominions in Germany, relying with pleaſure on the ſpirit and zeal of his people, in defence of his perſon and realm.

1757. The commons made proviſion for enabling his majeſty to maintain the war with vigour. They granted fifty-five thouſand men for the ſea-ſervice, and for the land-ſervice forty-nine thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine men. The ſupply was granted for the maintenance of theſe forces, as well as for the troops of Heſſe and Hanover; for the ordnance; the levy of new regiments; for aſſiſting his majeſty in forming and maintaining an army of obſervation, for the juſt and neceſſary defence and preſervation of his electoral dominions, and thoſe of his allies; and towards enabling him to fulfil his engagements with the King of Pruſſia, &c. &c. The ſupplies on the whole for this year amounted to 3,350,325l. 9s. 3d.

The firſt bill which the commons paſſed in this ſeſſion was for the relief of the poor, by prohibiting the exportation of corn; but, this not being judged adequate to the evil, another bill was framed, removing for a limited time the duty then payable upon foreign corn and flour imported; as alſo permitting, for a certain time, all ſuch foreign corn, grain, meal, bread, biſcuit, and flour, as had been, or ſhould be taken from the enemy, to be landed and expended in the kingdom duty free. In order ſtill more to reduce the high price of corn, and to prevent any ſupply of proviſions from being ſent to our enemies in America, a third bill was brought in, prohibiting, for a time therein limited, the exportation of corn, grain, meal, flour, bread, biſcuit, ſtarch, beef, pork, bacon, or other victual, from any of the Britiſh plantations, unleſs to Great Britain or Ireland, or from one colony to another. To this act two clauſes were added, for allowing thoſe neceſſaries, mentioned above, to be imported in foreign built ſhips, and from any ſtate in amity with his majeſty, either into Great Britain or Ireland; and for exporting from Southampton or Exeter, to the Iſle of Man, for the uſe of the inhabitants, a quantity of wheat, barley, oats, meal, or flour, not exceeding two thouſand five hundred quarters. The commons would have ſtill improved their humanity, had they contrived and eſtabliſhed ſome effectual method to puniſh thoſe unfeeling villains, who, by engroſſing, and hoarding up great quantities of grain, had created this artificial ſcarcity, and deprived their fellow-creatures of bread, with a view to their own private advantage. Upon a ſubſequent report of the committee, the houſe reſolved, that, to prevent the high price of wheat and bread, no ſpirits ſhould be diſtilled from grain for a limited time.

But no ſtep taken by the houſe of commons, in the courſe of this ſeſſion, was more intereſting to the body of the people than the enquiry into the loſs of Minorca, which had excited ſuch loud and univerſal clamour. By addreſſes to the king, unanimouſly voted, the commons requeſted that his majeſty would give directions for laying before them copies of all the letters and papers containing any intelligence received by his majeſty's miniſters, in relation to the equipment of the French fleet at Toulon, or the deſigns of the French on Minorca, or any other of his majeſty's poſſeſſions in Europe, ſince the firſt of January, in the year 1755, to the firſt of Auguſt 1756. They likewiſe deſired a liſt of the ſhips of war that were equipped and made ready for ſea, from the firſt of Auguſt, 1755, to the 30th of April in the following year; with the copies of all ſailing orders ſent to commanders during that period; as alſo the ſtate and condition of his majeſty's ſhips in the ſeveral ports of Great Britain at the time of Admiral Byng's departure, with the ſquadron under his command, for the relief of Fort St. Philip, during the period of time abovementioned. They demanded copies of all orders and inſtructions given to that admiral, and of letters written and received from him, during his continuance in that command, relating to the condition of his ſquadron, and to the execution of his orders. In a word, they required the inſpection of all papers which could, in any manner, tend to explain the loſs of Minorca, and the miſcarriage of Mr. Byng's ſquadron. His majeſty complied with every article of their requeſt: the papers were preſented to the houſe, ordered to lie upon the table for the peruſal of the members, and finally referred to the conſideration of a committee of the whole houſe. Several reſolutions were reported from the committee, though ſome of them were not carried by the majority without violent diſpute and ſevere altercation. The firſt and laſt of theſe reſolutions required particular notice. By the former, it appeared to the committee, that his majeſty, from the 27th of Auguſt, 1755, to the 20th of April in the ſucceeding year, received ſuch repeated and concurrent intelligence, as gave juſt reaſon to believe that the French king intended to invade his dominions of Great Britain or Ireland. In the latter they declared their opinion, that no greater number of ſhips of war could be ſent into the Mediterranean, than were actually ſent thither under the command of Admiral Byng; nor any greater reinforcement than the regiment which was ſent, and the detachment, equal to a battalion, which was ordered to the relief of Fort St. Philip, conſiſtently with the ſtate of the navy, and the various ſervices eſſential to the ſafety of his majeſty's dominions, and the intereſts of his ſubjects. It muſt have been ſomething more powerful than ordinary conviction that ſuggeſted theſe opinions. Whatever reports might have been circulated by the French miniſtry, in order to amuſe, intimidate and detach the attention of the Engliſh government from America and the Mediterranean, where they really intended to exert themſelves, yet, the circumſtances of the two nations being conſidered, one would think there could have been no juſt grounds to fear an invaſion of Great Britain or Ireland, eſpecially when other intelligence ſeemed to point out much more probable ſcenes of action. But the laſt reſolution is ſtill more incomprehenſible to thoſe who know not exactly the baſis on which it was raiſed. The number of ſhips of war in actual commiſſion amounted to two hundred and fifty, having on-board fifty thouſand ſeamen and marines. Intelligence and repeated information of the French deſign upon Minorca had been conveyed to the miniſtry of England about ſix months before it was put in execution. Is it credible, that in all this time the nation could not equip or ſpare above eleven ſhips of the line and ſix frigates, to ſave the important iſland of Minorca? Is it eaſy to conceive, that from a ſtanding army of fifty thouſand men, one regiment of troops could not have been detached to reinforce a garriſon, well known to be inſufficient for the works it was deſtined to defend? Conſidering the danger to which Minorca was expoſed and the forwardneſs of the enemy's preparations at Toulon, Admiral Oſborne, with thirteen ſhips of the line and one frigate, who returned on the 16th of February, after having convoyed a fleet of merchant-ſhips, might have been detached to Minorca, without hazarding the coaſt of Great Britain, for at that time, excluſive of this ſquadron, there were eight ſhips of the line and thirty-two frigates ready manned, and thirty-two ſhips of the line and five frigates almoſt equipped. Admiral Hawke was ſent with fourteen ſhips of the line and one frigate to cruize in the Bay of Biſcay, after repeated intelligence had been received that the French fleet had ſailed for the Weſt Indies, and the eleven ſhips remaining at Breſt and Rochefort were in want of hands and cannon, ſo that they could never ſerve to cover any embarkation or deſcent; conſequently Mr. Hawke's ſquadron might have been ſpared for the relief of Minorca; but, inſtead of attending to this important object, the admiralty, on the 8th of March, ſent two ſhips of the line and three frigates to intercept a coaſting convoy off Cape Barfleur: on the 11th of the ſame month they detached two ſhips of the line to the Weſt Indies, and on the 19th two more to North America, where they could be of little immediate ſervice; on the 23d two of the line and three frigates a convoy-hunting off Cherbourg; and, on the 1ſt of April they ſent five ſhips of the line, including three returned from this laſt ſervice, to reinforce Sir Edward Hawke, already too ſtrong for the French fleet bound to Canada. All theſe ſhips might have been added to Byng's ſquadron, without expoſing Great Britain or Ireland to any hazard of invaſion. But at length Mr. Byng was detached with ten great ſhips only, and even denied a frigate to repeat ſignals, for which he petitioned; although at that very time there were in port, excluſive of his ſquadron, ſeventeen ſhips of the line and thirteen frigates ready for ſea, beſides eleven of the line and nineteen frigates almoſt equipped. From theſe and other circumſtances particulariſed and urged with great vivacity, many individuals inferred, that a greater number of ſhips might have been detached to the Mediterranean than were actually ſent with Admiral Byng: that the not ſending an earlier and ſtronger force was one great cauſe of Minorca's being loſt, and co-operated with the delay of the miniſtry in ſending thither reinforcements of troops, their neglect in ſuffering the officers of the garriſon to continue abſent from their duty, and their omitting to give orders for raiſing miners to ſerve in the fortreſs of Mahon.

The fate of Admiral Byng now claims our attention. He was the ſon of that great officer who had acquired ſuch honour by his naval exploits in the preceding reign, and was ennobled for his ſervices by the title of Lord Viſcount Torrington. His ſecond ſon, John Byng, had from his earlieſt youth been trained to his father's profeſſion; and was generally eſteemed one of the beſt officers in the navy, when he embarked in that expedition to Minorca, which covered his character with diſgrace, and even expoſed him to all the horrors of an ignominious death. On the 28th of December, 1757, his trial began before a court-martial, held on-board the St. George, in the harbour of Portſmouth, to which place Byng had been conveyed from Greenwhich by a party of horſe-guards, and inſulted by the populace in every town and village through which he paſſed.

The witneſſes were of different opinions reſpecting the landing the hundred men which the admiral had on-board his fleet; the naval officers thought it would have been highly improper, whilſt General Blakeney ſaid it would have rendered him eſſential ſervice, and enabled him to have defended the place till Sir Edward Hawke could have arrived to its relief. The court, after having ſat ſeveral days, at length agreed unanimouſly, that, as ſo great a number of officers, belonging to the garriſon of St. Philip's, were on-board the fleet, and as their preſence there muſt have been much wanted, the admiral ought to have put them on-board one of the frigates he ſent ahead, in order to their being landed if found practicable; and if not landed before he ſaw the French fleet, he ought to have left the frigate to have endeavoured to land them, notwithſtanding he did ſee the enemy's fleet. When the Britiſh fleet on the ſtarboard tack were ſtretched abreaſt, or about the beam of the enemy's line, the admiral ſhould have tacked the fleet together, and immediately have conducted it on a direct courſe for the enemy, the van ſteering for the enemy's van, the rear for their rear; each ſhip for her oppoſite ſhip in the enemy's line, and under ſuch ſail as might have enabled the worſt ſailing ſhip under all plain ſails to preſerve her ſtation. The admiral retarded the rear-diviſion of the Britiſh fleet from cloſing with and engaging the enemy, by his ſhortening ſail in order that the Trident and the Princeſs Louiſa might get again ahead of the Ramilies, inſtead of which he ſhould have made ſignals to thoſe ſhips to make more ſail; and he ought to have made ſo much ſail himſelf as would have enabled the Culloden, the worſt-ſailing ſhip in his diviſion, to have kept her ſtation with all her plain ſails ſet, in order to have got down with as much expedition as poſſible to the enemy, and thereby have properly ſupported the van diviſion. The admiral acted wrong in directing the fire of the Ramilies to be continued before he had placed her at a proper diſtance from the enemy, as he thereby not only threw away ſhot uſeleſsly, but occaſioned a ſmoke which prevented his ſeeing the motions of the enemy, and the poſition of the ſhips immediately ahead of the Ramilies. After the ſhips that had received damage in the action were as much refitted as circumſtances would permit, the admiral ought to have returned with his ſquadron off St. Philip's, and endeavoured to have opened a communication with that caſtle, and to have uſed every means in his power for its relief before he returned to Gibraltar; but Admiral Byng did not do his utmoſt to relieve St. Philip's caſtle.

It appeared by the evidence of Lord Robert Bertie, Lieutenant-colonel Smith, Captain Gardener, and other officers of the ſhip, who were near the perſon of the admiral, that they did not perceive any backwardneſs in him during the action, or any marks of fear and confuſion either from his countenance or behaviour; but that he ſeemed to give his orders cooly and diſtinctly, and did not ſeem wanting in perſonal courage; and from other circumſtances the court did not believe that his miſconduct aroſe either from cowardice or diſaffection; notwithſtanding which, it appeared to the court that during the engagement he did not do his utmoſt to take, ſink, burn, and deſtroy, the ſhips of the enemy, and aſſiſt ſuch of his own ſhips as were engaged; therefore fell under the twelfth article of war, which pronounces death for ſuch neglect; and the court adjudged him to be ſhot to death on the 28th of February following, but unanimouſly thought it their duty moſt earneſtly to recommend him to mercy.

The admiral himſelf behaved through the whole trial with the moſt cheerful compoſure, ſeemingly the effect of conſcious innocence, upon which, perhaps, he too much relied. Even after he had heard the evidence examined againſt him, and finiſhed his own defence, he laid his account in being honourably acquitted; and ordered his coach to be ready for conveying him directly from the tribunal to London. A gentleman, his friend, by whom he was attended, having received intimation of the ſentence to be pronounced, thought it his duty to prepare him for the occaſion, that he might ſummon all his fortitude to his aſſiſtance, and accordingly made him acquainted with the information he had received. The admiral gave tokens of ſurpriſe and reſentment, but betrayed no marks of fear or diſorder, either then or in the court, when ſentence was pronounced. On the contrary, while divers members of the court-martial manifeſted grief and trepidation, even to ſhedding tears, he heard his doom denounced without undergo-ing the leaſt alteration of feature, and made a low obeiſance to the preſident and other members of the court as he retired.

The officers who compoſed this tribunal were ſo ſenſible of the law's ſeverity, that they unanimouſly ſubſcribed a letter to the board of admiralty, containing this remarkable paragraph:—"We cannot help laying the diſtreſſes of our minds before your lordſhips on this occaſion, in finding ourſelves under the neceſſity of condemning a man to death, from the great ſeverity of the twelfth article of war, part of which he falls under, which admits of no mitigation if the crime ſhould be committed by an error in judgment; and, therefore, for our own conſciences ſake, as well as in juſtice to the priſoner, we pray your lordſhips, in the moſt earneſt manner, to recommend him to his majeſty's clemency." The lords of the admiralty, inſtead of complying with the requeſt of the court-martial, tranſmitted their letter to the king, with copies of their proceedings, and a letter from themſelves to his majeſty, ſpecifying a doubt with regard to the legality of the ſentence, as the crime of negligence, for which the admiral had been condemned, was not expreſſed in any part of the proceedings. At the ſame time copies of two petitions from George Lord Viſcount Torrington, in behalf of his kinſman Admiral Byng, were ſubmitted to his majeſty's royal wiſdom and determination. All the friends and relations of the unhappy convict employed and exerted their influence and intereſt for his pardon; and, as the circumſtances had appeared ſo ſtrong in his favour, it was ſuppoſed that the ſceptre of royal mercy would be extended for his preſervation: but infamous arts were uſed to whet the ſavage appetite of the populace for blood. The cry of vengeance was loud throughout the land: ſullen clouds of ſuſpicion and malevolence interpoſing, were ſaid to obſtruct the genial beams of the beſt virtue that adorns the throne; and the ſovereign was given to underſtand, that the execution of Admiral Byng was a victim abſolutely neceſſary to appeaſe the fury of the people. His majeſty, in conſequence of the repreſentation made by the lords of the admiralty, referred the ſentence to the conſideration of the twelve judges, who were unanimouſly of opinion that the ſentence was legal. This report being tranſmitted from the privy council to the admiralty, their lordſhips iſſued a warrant for executing the ſentence of death on the twenty-eighth of February.

Rear-admiral Norris, who was a member of the houſe of commons, applied to that houſe in behalf of himſelf and ſeveral others who ſat on the trial, praying earneſtly to be releaſed by act of parliament from the oath by which they were bound not to reveal the vote or opinion of any particular member, alleging that they had ſomething to diſcloſe relative to the ſentence which greatly affected their conſciences, and which it was neceſſary to diſcloſe in order to do juſtice to the admiral: the execution of his ſentence was thereupon reſpited a fortnight, by an order from his majeſty: and Mr. Secretary Pitt delivered a meſſage from the king to the houſe of commons, ſignifying his deſire that the houſe would abſolve the court-martial of their oath; in compliance with which a bill paſſed the houſe for that purpoſe; the bill being carried to the lords for their concurrence, the ſeveral members of the court-martial were examined on oath, and among other queſtions that were put to them, they were aſked whether they were of opinion that they had ſome particulars to reveal relative to the caſe of Admiral Byng, and the ſentence paſſed upon him, which they judged neceſſary for his majeſty's information, and which they thought likely to incline his majeſty to mercy? which three of the members declined anſwering, whereupon the houſe unanimouſly rejected the bill. Upon this, orders were ſent to Portſmouth for carrying the ſentence of the court-martial into execution.

The admiral, being thus abandoned to his fate, reſolved at leaſt, by the bravery of his death, to wipe off the imputation of cowardice. He maintained to the laſt his natural ſerenity; and on the day fixed for his execution, the 14th of March, 1757, when the boats belonging to the fleet at Spithead, being manned and armed, attended this ſolemnity in the harbour, the admiral advanced from the cabin of the Monarque, where he had been impriſoned, to the deck, the place appointed for his execution, with a compoſed ſtep and reſolute countenance, reſolving to die with his face uncovered; but his friends repreſenting that his looks might poſſibly intimidate the marines, and prevent their taking proper aim, he ſubmitted to have his eyes bound with an handkerchief, and kneeling on a cuſhion, he gave the ſignal to fire, when a volley from ſix marines was diſcharged, five of whoſe bullets entered his body, and he inſtantly dropped down dead. When he firſt came on the deck he delivered into the hand of a friend a paper containing the following addreſs. "A few moments will now deliver me from virulent perſecution, and fruſtrate the malice of my enemies. Nor need I envy them a life ſubject to the ſenſations my injuries and the injuſtice done me muſt create. Perſuaded I am, that juſtice will be done to my reputation hereafter. The manner and cauſe of keeping up the popular clamour and prejudice againſt me will be ſeen through. I ſhall be conſidered as a victim, deſtined to divert the indignation and reſentment of an injured and deluded people from the proper objects. My enemies themſelves muſt now think me innocent. Happy for me at this my laſt moment, that I know my own innocence, and am conſcious that no part of my country's misfortunes can be owing to me. I heartily wiſh the ſhedding my blood may contribute to the happineſs and ſervice of my country; but I cannot reſign my juſt claim to a faithful diſcharge of my duty, according to the beſt of my judgment, and the utmoſt ex-exertion of my ability for his majeſty's honour, and my country's ſervice. I am ſorry that my endeavours were not attended with more ſucceſs, and that the armament under my command proved too weak to ſucceed in an expedition of ſuch moment. Truth has prevailed over calumny and falſhood, and juſtice has wiped off the ignominious ſtain of my perſonal want of courage, and the charge of diſaffection. My heart acquits me of theſe crimes; but who can be preſumptuouſly ſure of his own judgment? if my crime is an error of judgment, or differing in opinion from my judges; and if yet the error of judgment ſhould be on their ſide, God forgive them as I do; and may the diſtreſs of their minds, and uneaſineſs of their conſciences, which in juſtice to me they have repreſented, be relieved, and ſubſide as my reſentment has done. The ſupreme Judge ſees all hearts and motives, and to him I muſt ſubmit the juſtice of my cauſe."

Such was the fate of this unfortunate man. What ſhare of demerit poſterity will award him is uncertain. Perhaps his conduct may be explained as well as his crime extenuated by an event that happened not many years before; the Britiſh fleet had engaged the combined fleets of France and Spain, on the very ſea where Mr. Byng then rode; for which action the forward enterprizing commander was diſgraced, and the cautious inactive one applauded, by the ſolemn deciſion of a court-martial, of which too this gentleman himſelf was a member. And it is remarkable that when his own captain, the brave Gardener, preſſed him to bear down upon the enemy, he replied, What! would you have me guilty of the ſame fault which Matthews committed? But a ſcrupulous caution is ever execrated by the violent multitude, who are always forward to decide on the moſt complicated and nice queſtions, and who are ever "bold in peaceful councils." However vague and erroneous popular opinion may frequently be, yet it ought perhaps to be acknowledged, that prudence, and even the moſt conſummate ſkill, ſhould be conſidered only as the ground-work of a commander, his eſſential quality being a bold and impetuous courage; that not only meets danger with calmneſs, but ſeeks it with eagerneſs, and is reſtleſs and impatient when judgment preſcribes law to his valour: at leaſt the numerous inſtances of great atchievements, which our naval annals afford, juſtifies this aſſertion.

Notwithſtanding all that has been ſaid in his favour, notwithſtanding the infamous arts that were practiſed to keep up the cry againſt him, notwithſtanding this ſolemn appeal to heaven in his laſt moments, and even ſelf-conviction of innocence, the character of Admiral Byng, in point of perſonal courage, will ſtill with many people remain problematical. They will ſtill be of opinion, that, if the ſpirit of a Britiſh admiral had been properly exerted, the French fleet would have been defeated, and Minorca relieved. A man's opinion of danger varies at different times, in conſequence of an irregular tide of animal ſpirits, and he is actuated by conſiderations which he dares not avow. After an officer, thus influenced, has heſitated or kept aloof in the hour of trial, the mind, eager for its own juſtification, aſſembles, with ſurpriſing induſtry, every favourable circumſtance of excuſe, and broods over them with parental partiality, until it becomes not only ſatisfied, but even enamoured of their beauty and complexion, like a doating mother, blind to the deformity of her own offspring. Whatever Mr. Byng's internal feelings might have been, whatever conſequences might have attended his behaviour on that occaſion; as the tribunal before which he was tried acquitted him expreſsly of cowardice and treachery, he was, without all doubt, a proper object for royal clemency; and ſo impartial poſterity will judge of him, after all thoſe diſhonourable motives of faction and of fear, by which his fate was influenced, ſhall be loſt in oblivion, or remembered with diſdain.

The loſſes and diſappointments of the preceding year, made it abſolutely neceſſary to retrieve the credit of the Britiſh arms and councils by ſome vigorous and ſpirited enterprize. A well-planned and vigorous deſcent on the coaſt of France, it was thought, would probably give a deciſive blow to the marine of that kingdom, and at the ſame time effect a powerful diverſion in favour of the Pruſſian monarch and the Duke of Cumberland, driven from all his poſts in the electorate of Hanover, by drawing a part of the French forces to the defence and protection of their own coaſts

Colonel Clark, on his return from Gibraltar in the year 1754, in paſſing through France, had viſited Rochfort, a conſiderable arſenal for naval ſtores in the territory of Aunis, about the centre of that long extended coaſt which bounds the bay of Biſcay. As a rupture with France was then expected, he was very attentive in obſerving the ſtate of defence which the town poſſeſſed; and, from the ruinous condition of its fortifications, he was induced to repreſent to the Britiſh miniſtry on his return to England, the eaſe with which its ſtores might be deſtroyed. In conſequence of this information, no ſooner was it determined in the cabinet to make a powerful diverſion at ſea, than Rochfort was ſingled out to ſuſtain the onſet. Vaſt preparations were made for ſtriking this important blow; ten regiments of foot, conſiſting of nine thouſand men, were marched to the Iſle of Wight, to embark on-board a fleet which was fitting for ſea at Portſmouth. The deſtination of this armament was kept a profound ſecret, which filled the government and people of France with the moſt alarming fears. The conjunction was particularly favourable to ſuch an enterprize: one hundred and fifty thouſand French troops were diſperſed in Germany, which had drained the kingdom of its military ſtrength, ſo that there was not more than ten thouſand regular troops from St. Valery to Bourdeaux. The fleet that was to co-operate with this army conſiſted of ſixteen ſhips of the line, beſides frigates, fire-ſhips, and fifty-five tranſports: Sir Edward Hawke had the chief command of the fleet, under him were the Admirals Knowles and Broderick: the land-forces were put under Sir John Mordaunt. So much time was ſpent in collecting and equipping this force, that it was not until the 8th of September that the fleet got under ſail: perhaps at this diſtance of time the true cauſe of the delay may be better gueſſed at than immediately after the event, but it muſt be left to future hiſtorians ſatisfactorily to develope myſtery in which the cauſes of the fate of this expedition lay concealed.

On the 15th, when the whole armament had got to ſea, the officers and men were firſt informed that a deſcent was deſigned on the coaſt of France near Rochfort or Rochelle. On the 19th the fleet arrived within about twenty leagues of the French coaſt, when a ſignal was made to lie to, notwithſtanding the wind was fair and the night clear. In this ſtate of inactivity eight hours were waſted, to the great aſtoniſhment of every body. On the 20th the fleet made iſle of Oleron, when Sir Edward Hawke ſent an order to Vice-admiral Knowles, requiring him, if the wind permitted, to proceed, with ſuch ſhips of his diviſion as he ſhould think neceſſary for the ſervice, to Baſque road, and to ſtand in as near to the iſle of Aix as the pilot would carry him, and then attempt the reduction of the fort. In conſequence of theſe orders, the vice-admiral made ſail; and, as he was preparing his ſhips for action, a French man of war was obſerved ſtanding in towards the centre of the Britiſh fleet. This appearance was ſo very ſingular, that it ſeemed to deprive Admiral Knowles of proper ſelf-poſſeſſion, as he ſuffered the enemy to retrieve her miſtake before he threw out a ſignal to chaſe. At length the Magnanime, Torbay, and Royal William, went in purſuit, but ineffectually, for towards night the Frenchman, having the advantage of a perfect knowledge of the coaſt, ſlipped up the river Garonne without her courſe being diſcovered. Her purſuers having thus loſt ſight of her, rejoined the fleet the next morning, which, during the chace, had ſhortened ſail.

On the 21ſt the weather proved ſo hazy that no progreſs could be made. The next day the ſhips entered the bay called the road of Baſque, between the iſlands of Rhée and Oleron, and there remained at anchor during the night. About eight o'clock on the next morning, (the 23d,) Vice-admiral Knowles in the Neptune, with the Magnanime, Barfleur, America, Alcide, Burford, and Royal William, made ſail towards Aix, a ſmall iſland, about five miles in circumference, ſituated oppoſite the mouth of the river Charante, leading up to Rochfort. The honourable Captain Howe, in the Magnanime, led the van. At half paſt twelve o'clock, the fort upon the iſland began to fire at the headmoſt ſhip as it approached, but her commander kept on his courſe without diſcharging a gun until he came abreaſt of the battery, when, dropping his anchors, he poured ſuch a furious broadſide as drove every man from the guns in the fort. From this time the fire from the battery gradually decreaſed, although it was near an hour before the French colours were ſtruck. In the afternoon ſome land-forces were put on ſhore to take poſſeſſion of the iſland; where they found thirty cannon and mortars, but no more than ſix iron cannon mounted *en barbet* had been employed in the defence of the place. Near five hundred men, compoſed of ſoldiers and ſailors, were made priſoners of war on this occaſion. Notwithſtanding the ſevere orders that had been iſſued by Sir John Mordaunt againſt drunkenneſs and every other irregularity, yet both the ſoldiers and ſailors who landed, found means to get heartily drunk, and in defiance of all diſcipline treated the miſerable iſlanders with great inhumanity.

Although the acquiſition of this little ſpot was inconſiderable in itſelf, yet it inſpired the men with freſh ardour, as they conſidered it the earneſt of farther ſucceſſes. But here all active meaſures were doomed to terminate. A French pilot named Thierry, who had undertaken to bring the ſhips up to Rochfort, and on whoſe information reſpecting the coaſt much dependance had been placed, now offered to make good his promiſes. Sir Edward Hawke propoſed laying a ſixty-gun ſhip againſt Fowras, and battering that fort, that the troops might ſecurely land on the continent. Had an attempt been made on Rochfort the day after the iſland of Aix was reduced, the faireſt proſpect of ſucceſs preſented itſelf. Colonel Wolfe, who afterwards diſtinguiſhed himſelf ſo eminently, and fell ſo glorioully, offered to make himſelf maſter of Rochfort with five hundred men and three ſhips only, but this ſpirited propoſal was rejected. After the fleet and troops had remained inactive until the 28th of September, as if it had been intended to give the enemy time to recover from their ſurprize, and to collect their forces, it was then determined in a council war to make a deſcent, and attack the forts leading to and upon the mouth of the river Charante. In conſequence of this reſolution, at eight o'clock that evening orders were iſſued for the troops to prepare for landing in the night. Accordingly twelve hundred men got into boats with ſuch alacrity, that the whole detachment was ready an hour before the time appointed. The wind blew freſh, which drove the boats againſt each other, whilſt they were waiting for further orders during four hours. At three o'clock in the morning an order was publiſhed for the troops to return to their reſpective tranſports, which, notwithſtanding the perils that awaited a deſcent, was complied with very reluctantly by the men.

The ſucceeding days were employed in blowing up and demoliſhing the fortifications of Aix; after which, in conſequence of a letter from Sir Edward Hawke, the land-officers took the final reſolution of returning to England without any farther attempts. On the 1ſt of October the fleet ſailed with a fair wind, and on the 6th came to an anchor at Spithead. Such was the abortive fate of an expedition that coſt England near a million of money, had ſpread conſternation through the coaſts of France, and had excited the attention of all Europe. Nothing could exceed the general diſcontent. The military men blamed the *plan* of the expedition: the miniſters, and with them the public voice, exclaimed at the *execution*. A court of enquiry compoſed of officers of reputation, cenſured the commander; a court-martial of officers of reputation acquitted him. Some remarked, that the expedition ſailed from England in an evil hour, being on the very day that the convention of Cloſter-Seven was ſigned; and many were of opinion, to uſe the expreſſion of a noble wit, "that the tail of the Hanover neutrality, like that of a comet, extended itſelf to Rochfort."

Beſides the diverſion intended by a deſcent on the coaſt of France, ſeveral other methods were employed to amuſe the enemy, as well as to protect the trade of the kingdom, ſecure our colonies in the Weſt Indies, and inſure the continuance of ſucceſs in the Eaſt-Indies. On the 9th of February Admiral Weſt ſailed with a ſquadron of men of war to the weſtward, as did Admiral

miral Coates with the fleet under his convoy to the Weſt-Indies, and Commodore Stevens with the trade to the Eaſt-Indies in the month of March. Admiral Holbourn and Commodore Holms, with eleven ſhips of the line, a fire-ſhip, bomb-ketch, and fifty tranſports, ſailed from St. Helen's for America in April. The admiral had on-board ſix thouſand two hundred effective men, excluſive of officers, under the command of General Hopſon, aſſiſted by Lord Charles Hay. In May, Admiral Oſborne, who had been forced back to Plymouth with his ſquadron by ſtreſs of weather, ſet ſail for the Mediterranean, as did two ſhips of war ſent to convoy the American trade. Meantime our privateers greatly annoyed the French commerce. The Antigallican, a private ſhip of war, equipped by a ſociety of men who aſſumed that name, took the Duke de Penthievre Indiaman off the port of Corunna, and carried her into Cadiz. The prize was eſtimated worth 200,000l. and immediate application was made by France to the court of Spain, for reſtitution, while the proprietors of the Antigallican were ſquandering in mirth, feſtivity, and riot, the imaginary wealth ſo eaſily and unexpectedly acquired. Such were the remonſtrances made to his catholic majeſty with reſpect to the illegality of the prize, which the French Eaſt-India company aſſerted was taken within ſhot of a neutral port, that the Penthievere was firſt violently wreſted out of the hands of the captors, then detained as a depoſit, with ſealed hatches, and a Spaniſh guard on-board, till the claims of both parties could be examined, and at laſt adjudged to be an illegal capture, and conſequently reſtored to the French, to the great diſappointment of the owners of the privateer.

We might perhaps ſearch the annals of hiſtory in vain, for a more remarkable inſtance of deſperate courage than that exerted by the officers and crew of an Engliſh privateer called the Terrible, commanded by Captain Death, equipped with twenty-ſix carriage-guns, and manned with two hundred ſailors. Soon after their departure, they fell in with a French ſhip of force, named the Grand Alexandre, richly laden from St. Domingo, and bound to Nantz, and after an obſtinate engagement took her, but loſt ſeventeen of their crew, among which was Death's brother. The captain put forty men on-board the prize, and directed his courſe towards England; but a few days after, he fell in with the Vengeance privateer from St. Malo, carrying thirty-ſix large pieces of cannon, and three hundred and ſixty men. The Frenchman firſt attacked the prize, which was ſoon retaken, when the two ſhips bore down upon the Terrible, whoſe main-maſt was ſhot away by the firſt broadſide. Notwithſtanding this diſaſter, ſhe maintained ſuch a furious engagement againſt both, as can hardly be paralleled in the hiſtory of Britain. The French commander and his ſecond were both killed, together with two-thirds of the crew; but the gallant Captain Death, with the greater part of his officers, and almoſt his whole crew, having met with the ſame fate, the Terrible was boarded by the enemy, who found no more than twenty-ſix perſons alive, ſixteen of whom were mutilated by the loſs of a leg or arm, and the other ten grievouſly wounded. The ſhip was ſo ſhattered that ſhe could ſcarcely be kept above water, and the whole exhibited a ſcene of blood, horror, and deſolation. The Vengeance herſelf lay like a wreck on the ſurface; and it was with the utmoſt difficulty they towed the Terrible into St. Malo, where ſhe was beheld with aſtoniſhment and terror. No leſs than four hunded men were either killed or wounded on both ſides in this dreadful conflict. This adventure was no ſooner known in England, than a ſubſcription was ſet on foot at Lloyd's coffee-houſe for the benefit of the captain's window, for the widows of thoſe brave men who loſt their lives, and for that part of the crew that ſurvived the engagement.

In the month of November, Captain Lochart of the Tartar, a young gentleman who had already rendered himſelf a terror to the enemy as commander of a ſmall frigate, now added conſiderably to his reputation, by reducing the Melampe, a French privateer of Bayonne, greatly ſuperior to his ſhip, both in number of men and weight of metal. This exploit was followed by a ſecond of the ſame nature, in taking another privateer, called the Counteſs of Gramont; while a third large adventurer belonging to Bayonne, was taken by Captain Saumarez, commander of the Antelope.

Beſides the ſucceſs which attended a great number of other privateers, the lords of the admiralty publiſhed a liſt of above thirty ſhips of war and privateers taken from the enemy, in the ſpace of four months, by the Engliſh ſloops and men of war: excluſive of the Duke d'Acquitaine Indiaman, now fitted out as a ſhip of war, taken by the Eagle and Medway; the Pondicherry Indiaman, valued at 160,000l. taken by the Dover man of war; and above ſix privateers brought into port by the diligent and brave Captain Lochart, for which he was honoured by a variety of preſents of plate by ſeveral corporations, in teſtimony of their eſteem and regard. This run of good fortune was not, however, without ſome retribution on the ſide of the enemy, who, out of twenty-one ſhips homeward-bound from Carolina, made prize of nineteen, whence the merchants ſuſtained conſiderable damage, and a great quantity of valuable commodities, indigo in particular, was loſt to this country.

Notwithſtanding the large imports of grain from different parts of Europe and America, the artifice of engroſſers ſtill kept up the price of corn. [We ſeem to be reading the hiſtory of the preſent day.] So incenſed were the populace at the iniquitous combinations entered into to fruſtrate the endeavours of the legiſlature, and to oppreſs the poor, that they roſe in a tumultuous manner in ſeveral counties, ſometimes to the number of five or ſix thouſand, and ſeized upon the grain brought to market. Nor was it indeed to be wondered at, conſidering the diſtreſs to which many perſons were reduced. The difficulty of obtaining the neceſſaries of life raiſed the price of labour at the moſt unſeaſonable time, when all manufacturers were overſtocked for want of a proper market, which obliged them to diſmiſs above half the hands before employed. Hence aroſe the moſt pitiable conditions of ſeveral thouſands of uſeful induſtrious ſubjects; a calamity attended only with one advantage to the public, namely, the facility with which recruits were raiſed for his majeſty's ſervice. At laſt the plentiful crops with which it pleaſed Providence to bleſs theſe kingdoms, the prodigious quantities of corn imported from foreign countries, and the wiſe meaſures of the legiſlature, broke all the villanous ſchemes ſet on foot by the foreſtallers and engroſſers, and reduced the price of corn to the uſual ſtandard. The public joy on this event was greatly augmented by the ſafe arrival of the fleet from the Leeward iſlands, conſiſting of ninety-two ſail, and of the Straits fleet, eſteemed worth three millions ſterling, whereby the ſilk manufacturers in particular were again employed, and their diſtreſſes relieved. About the ſame time the India Company was highly elated with the joyful account of the ſafe arrival and ſpirited conduct of three of their captains, attacked in their paſſage homeward by two French men of war, one of ſixty-four, the other of twenty-ſix, guns. After a warm engagement, which continued for three hours, they obliged the French ſhips to ſheer off, with ſcarce any loſs on their own ſide. When the engagement began, the captains had promiſed a reward of a thouſand pounds to the crews, by way of incitement to their valour; and the company doubled the ſum, in recompence of their fidelity and courage.

Whatever reaſons the government had to expect the campaign ſhould be vigorouſly puſhed in America, almoſt every circumſtance turned out contrary to expectation. Not all the endeavours of the Earl of Loudoun to quiet the diſſenſions among the different provinces, and to eſtabliſh unanimity and harmony, could prevail. The attack on Crown Point, which had been ſo long meditated, was laid aſide, as of leſs importance than the intended expedition to Louiſbourg, now ſubſtituted in its place, and undoubtedly a more conſiderable object in itſelf. Admiral Holbourn arrived at Halifax, with the ſquadron and tranſports under his command, on the 9th of July; and it was Loudoun's intention to repair thither with all poſſible diligence, in order to take upon him the command of the expedition; but a variety of accidents interpoſed. It was with the utmoſt difficulty he at length aſſembled a body of ſix thouſand men, with which he inſtantly began his march to join the troops lately arrived from England. When the junction was effected, the whole forces amounted to twelve thouſand men; an army that raiſed great expectations. Immediately ſome ſmall veſſels were ſent out to examine and reconnoitre the condition of the enemy, and the intermediate time was employed in embarking the troops, as ſoon as the tranſports arrived. The return of the ſcouts totally altered the face of affairs; they brought the unwelcome news, that M. de Bois de la Mothe, who ſailed in the month of May from Breſt with a large fleet of ſhips of war and tranſports, was now ſafe at anchor in the harbour of Louiſbourg; that the place was well ſupplied with ammunition, proviſion, and every kind of military ſtores; and that the enemy wiſhed for nothing more than an attack, which it was probable would terminate to the diſgarce of the aſſailants, and ruin of the Britiſh affairs in America. The commanders at Halifax were fully appriſed of the conſequences of an unſucceſsful attempt; it was, therefore, almoſt unanimouſly reſolved to poſtpone the expedition to ſome more convenient opportunity, eſpecially as the ſeaſon now far advanced, which alone would be ſufficient to fruſtrate their endeavours, and render the enterpriſe abortive.

Lord Loudoun's departure from New York, with all the forces he was able to collect, afforded the Marquis de Montcalm the faireſt occaſion for improving the ſucceſſes of the former campaign. That general had, in the very commencement of the ſeaſon, made three different attacks on Fort William Henry, in all of which he was repulſed by the vigour and reſolution of the garriſon. But his diſappointment here was balanced by an advantage gained by a party of regulars and Indians at Ticonderoga. Colonel John Parker, with a detachment of near four hundred men, went by water, in whale and bay boats, to attack the enemy's advanced guard at that place. Landing at night on an iſland, he ſent before dawn three boats to the main land, which the enemy waylaid and took. Having procured the neceſſary intelligence from the priſoners of the colonel's deſign, they contrived their meaſures, placed three hundred men in ambuſh behind the point where he propoſed landing, and ſent three batteaux to the place of rendezvous. Colonel Parker miſtaking theſe for his own boats, eagerly put to ſhore, was ſurrounded by the enemy, reinforced by four hundred men, and attacked with ſuch impetuoſity, that, of the whole detachment, only two officers and ſeventy private men eſcaped. Fluſhed with this advantage, animated by the abſence of the Britiſh commander-in chief, then at Halifax, and fired with a deſire to revenge the diſgrace he had ſuſtained before Fort Henry, Montcalm drew together all his forces, with intention to lay ſiege to that place. Fort William Henry ſtands on the ſouthern coaſt of Lake George; it was built with a view to cover the frontiers of the Engliſh colonies, as well as to command the lake: the fortifications were good, defended by a garriſon of near three thouſand men, and covered by an army of four thouſand, under the conduct of General Webb, poſted at no great diſtance. When Montcalm had aſſembled all the forces at Crown Point, Ticonderoga, and the adjacent poſts, together with a conſiderable body of Canadians and Indians, amounting in the whole to near ten thouſand men, he marched directly to the fort, made his approaches, and began to batter with a numerous train of artillery. On the very day he inveſted the place, he ſent a letter to Colonel Monro, the governor, telling him, he thought himſelf obliged, in humanity, to deſire he would ſurrender the fort, and not provoke the great number of ſavages in the French army by a vain reſiſtance. But neither Montcalm's promiſes or threats could prevail upon them to ſurrender, while they were in a condition to defend themſelves, or could reaſonably expect aſſiſtance from General Webb. They even perſiſted to hold out after prudence dictated they ought to ſurrender. Colonel Monro was ſenſible of the importance of his charge, and imagined that General Webb, though ſlow in his motions, would ſurely make ſome vigorous efforts either to raiſe the ſiege, or force a ſupply of ammunition, proviſion, and other neceſſaries, into the garriſon. At length neceſſity obliged him, after ſuſtaining a ſiege from the third to the ninth of Auguſt, to hang out a flag of truce. It was ſtipulated, that the garriſon of Fort William Henry, and the troops in the retrenched camp, ſhould march out with their arms, baggage, and all the uſual neceſſaries of war, eſcorted by a detachment of French troops, and interpreters attached to the ſavages: that the gate of the fort ſhould be delivered to the troops of the moſt chriſtian king, immediately after ſigning the capitulation; and the retrenched camp, on the departure of the Britiſh forces: that the artillery, warlike ſtores, proviſion, and in general every thing except the effects of ſoldiers and officers, ſhould upon honour be delivered to the French troops; that the garriſon of the fort, and the troops in the retrenchment and dependencies, ſhould not ſerve, for the ſpace of eighteen months, againſt his moſt chriſtian majeſty, or his allies: that the ſick and wounded, not in a condition to be tranſported to Fort Edward, ſhould remain under the protection of the Marquis de Montcalm; who engaged to uſe them with tenderneſs and humanity, and to return them as ſoon as recovered. Whether Montcalm was really aſſiduous to have theſe articles punctually executed we cannot pretend to determine; but, certain it is, they were perfidiouſly broke, in almoſt every inſtance. The ſavages in the French intereſt either paid no regard to the capitulation, or were permitted, from views of policy, to act the moſt treacherous, inhuman, and inſidious, part. They fell upon the Britiſh troops as they marched out, deſpoiled them of their few remaining effects; dragged the Indians in the Engliſh ſervice out of their ranks, and aſſaſſinated them with circumſtances of unheard-of barbarity. The greater part of the Engliſh garriſon, however, arrived at Fort Edward, under the protection of the French eſcort. The enemy demoliſhed the fort, carried off the effects, proviſion, artillery, and every thing elſe left by the garriſon, together with the veſſels preſerved in the lake, and departed, without purſuing their ſucceſs by any other attempt.

The naval tranſactions in this country were not leſs unfortunate. Immediately on Lord Loudoun's departure from Halifax, Admiral Holbourn, now freed from the care of the tranſports, ſet ſail for Louiſbourg,

bourg, with fifteen ſhips of the line, one of fifty-guns, three ſmall frigates, and a fire-ſhip. What the object of this cruiſe might have been can only be conjectured. Some imagine that curioſity was the admiral's ſole motive, and the deſire of informing himſelf with certainty of the enemy's ſtrength; while others perſuade themſelves that he was in hopes of drawing M. de la Mothe to an engagement, notwithſtanding his ſuperiority in number of ſhips and weight of metal. Be this as it may, the Britiſh ſquadron appeared off Louiſbourg on the 20th of Auguſt, and approaching within two miles of the batteries, ſaw the French admiral make the ſignal to unmoor. Holbourn was greatly inferior in ſtrength, and it is obvious that his deſign was not to fight the enemy, as he immediately made the beſt of his way to Halifax. About the middle of September, being reinforced with four ſhips of the line, he again proceeded to Louiſbourg, probably with intention, if poſſible, to draw the enemy to an engagement; but he found De la Mothe too prudent to hazard an unneceſſary battle, the loſs of which would have greatly expoſed all the French colonies. Here the Engliſh ſquadron continued cruiſing until the 25th, when they were overtaken by a terrible ſtorm from the ſouthward. When the hurricane began, the fleet were about forty leagues diſtant from Louiſbourg: but were driven in twelve hours, within two miles of the rocks and breakers on that coaſt, when the wind providentially ſhifted. The ſhip Tilbury was wrecked upon the rocks, and half her crew drowned. Eleven ſhips were diſmaſted, others threw their guns overboard, and all returned in a very ſhattered condition to England, at a very unfavourable ſeaſon of the year. In this manner ended the expedition to Louiſbourg, more unfortunate to the nation than the preceding deſigns upon Rochefort; leſs diſgraceful to the commanders, but equally the occaſion of triumph to our enemies.

The French king not only exerted himſelf againſt the Engliſh in America, but even extended his operations to their ſettlements in Africa, which he ſent one of his naval commanders, with a ſmall ſquadron, to reduce. This gentleman, whoſe name was Kerſin, had ſcoured the coaſt of Guinea, and made prize of ſeveral Engliſh ſhips: but his chief aim was to reduce the caſtle at Cape Coaſt, of which, had he gained poſſeſſion, the other ſubordinate forts would have ſubmitted without oppoſition. When Mr. Bell, the governor of the caſtle, received intelligence that M. de Kerſin was a few leagues to windward, and certainly intended to attack Cape Coaſt, his whole garriſon did not exceed thirty white men, excluſive of a few Mulatto ſoldiers: his ſtock of ammunition was reduced to half a barrel of gunpowder: and his fortifications were ſo crazy and inconſiderable, that, in the opinion of the beſt engineers, they could not have ſuſtained, for twenty minutes, the fire of one great ſhip, had it been properly directed and maintained. In theſe circumſtances, few people would have dreamed of making any preparation for defence; but Mr. Bell entertained other ſentiments, and acquitted himſelf with equal courage and diſcretion. He forthwith procured a ſupply of gunpowder, and a reinforcement of about fifty men, from certain trading veſſels that happened to be upon that part of the coaſt. He mounted ſome ſpare cannon upon an occaſional battery, and aſſembled a body of twelve hundred negroes, well armed, under the command of their chief, on whoſe attachment he could depend, and ordered them to take poſt at the place where he apprehended the enemy would attempt a landing. Theſe precautions were hardly taken, when the French ſquadron, conſiſting of two ſhips of the line and a large frigate, appeared, and in a little time their attack began, but they met with ſuch a warm reception, that in leſs than two hours they deſiſted, leaving the caſtle very little damaged, and immediately made ſail for the Weſt-Indies. Had the fort of Cape Coaſt been reduced on this occaſion, in all probability every petty republic of the negroes, ſettled under the protection of the Gold Coaſt, would have revolted from the Britiſh intereſt: for while the French ſquadron hovered in the offing of Annamaboe, an Engliſh ſettlement, a few leagues to leeward of Cape Coaſt, John Corrantee, the chief magiſtrate and general of the blacks on that part of the coaſt, whoſe adopted ſon had a few years before been careſſed, and even treated as a prince, in England, taking it for granted that this enterprize of the French would be attended with ſucceſs, ſent ſome of his dependents, with a preſent of refreſhments for the commodore; the delivery of which, however, was prevented by Mr. Brew, the Engliſh chief of the fort, who ſhattered in pieces the canoe before it could be launched, and threatened with his cannon to level the black town with the duſt. Though thus anticipated in his deſign, he reſolved to be among the firſt who ſhould compliment M. de Kerſin on his victory at Cape Coaſt; and with this view prepared an embaſſy, or deputation, to go by land; but, underſtanding that the French had failed in their attempt, he ſhifted his deſign without the leaſt heſitation, and diſpatched the ſame embaſſy to Mr. Bell, whom he congratulated on his victory, aſſuring him he had kept his men ready armed, to march at the firſt ſummons to his aſſiſtance.

In the Eaſt-Indies the ſcene was changed greatly to the honour and advantage of Great Britain. We left Admiral Watſon and Colonel Clive, advancing to Calcutta, to revenge the cruel tragedy acted upon their countrymen the preceding year. On the 28th of December, 1756, the fleet proceeded up the river: next day Colonel Clive landed, and, with the aſſiſtance of the ſquadron, in twenty-four hours made himſelf maſter of Buſbudgia, a place of great ſtrength, though very ill defended. The king's troops were then landed under the command of Captain Coote, and marched to join thoſe of the company. Colonel Clive's troops were poſted at the back of the fort to intercept the enemy if they ſhould attempt to retreat, and for this purpoſe were divided into ſeveral ſmall parties. One of theſe were ſuddenly attacked by three thouſand horſe and foot under the command of Monuh-chund, the Indian governor of Calcutta; at the firſt onſet upward of twenty Europeans were killed and wounded, but upon the colonel arriving with a reinforcement, and ſome field-pieces being diſcharged amongſt the moors, which did great execution, the whole army retreated with precipitation. Still however the garriſon made no offers of ſurrendering the place, and continued to diſcharge fire-arrows and ſmall arms; it was therefore determined in a council of war, compoſed of ſea and land officers on-board the Kent, that Colonel Clive ſhould endeavour to take the place by aſſault. For this purpoſe at five o'clock in the evening, the admiral landed an officers, two midſhipmen, and about forty ſailors from each ſhip, under the command of Captain King, to aſſiſt the colonel in ſtorming the fort, which was intended to be done before day-break, under cover of two twenty-four pounders mounted quite cloſe to the ditch. In the mean time the colonel had given directions that the whole army (the neceſſary guards excepted) and the detachment from the ſhips, ſhould reſt on the ground, in order to recover themſelves as much as poſſible from the great fatigues they had undergone in the preceding day's ſervice. When all was quiet in the camp and on-board the ſhips, ſuddenly a loud exclamation burſt forth, that the fort was taken. This news was no leſs welcome than unexpected; but what was the aſtoniſhment of every one, when the means by which it was captured came to be known?

During the tranquil ſtate of the camp, one Strahan, a common ſailor belonging to the Kent, having been juſt ſerved with a quantity of grog, had his ſpirits too much elated to think of taking any reſt; he therefore ſtrayed by himſelf towards the fort, and imperceptibly got under the walls: being advanced thus far without interruption, he took it into his head to ſcale at a breach that had been made by the cannon of the ſhips; and, having luckily got upon the baſtion, he there diſcovered ſeveral Moor-men ſitting on the platform, at whom he flouriſhed his cutlaſs, and fired his piſtol, and then, after giving three loud huzzas, cried out, "The place is mine." The Mooriſh ſoldiers immediately attacked him, and he defended himſelf with incomparable reſolution; but in the rencounter had the misfortune to have his cutlaſs cut in two, about a foot from the hilt: this miſchance, however, did not happen till he was near being ſupported by two or three other ſailors, who had accidentally ſtraggled to the ſame part of the fort on which the other had mounted. Hearing Strahan's huzzas, they ſcaled the breach likewiſe, and echoing the triumphant ſound, rouſed the whole army, who taking the alarm, preſently fell on without orders and without diſcipline. As the greateſt part of the garriſon had eſcaped ſoon after the batteries were ſilenced, very few remained at the time of this aſſault; eighteen cannon and forty barrels of powder were found in the place.

Strahan, the hero of this adventurous action, was ſoon brought before the admiral, who, notwithſtanding the ſucceſs that had attended it, thought it neceſſary to ſhew himſelf diſpleaſed with the meaſure in which the want of all military diſcipline ſo notoriouſly appeared; he therefore angrily accoſted this brave fellow, with, "Strahan, what is this you have been doing?" The untutored hero, after having made his bow, ſcratched his head, and with one hand twirling his hat on the other, replied, "Why to be ſure, ſir, it was I who took the fort, but I hope there is no harm in it." The admiral with difficulty ſuppreſſed a ſmile, excited by the ſimplicity of the anſwer, while the whole company was exceedingly diverted at the aukward appearance of the brave ſailor, and the language and manner which he uſed in recounting the ſeveral particulars of his mad exploit. Admiral Watſon then expatiated on the fatal conſequences that might have attended his irregular conduct, and then with a ſevere rebuke diſmiſſed him; but not without dropping ſome hints, that at a proper opportunity he ſhould certainly be puniſhed for his temerity. Strahan, amazed to find himſelf blamed for an action that he thought deſerved praiſe, and for which he expected to have received applauſe; in paſſing from the admiral's cabin muttered, "If I am flogged for this here action, I will never take another fort by myſelf as long as I live, by G—." The ſingularity of the enterprize, its ſucceſs, and the fearleſs ſpirit which the man had diſplayed, pleaded ſtrongly with the admiral in his behalf, whilſt the diſcipline of the ſervice required that ſome outward marks of diſpleaſure ſhould be ſhewn. To pay a proper regard to all theſe conſiderations, the admiral outwardly expreſſed marks of his diſpleaſure for ſome time; but afterwards, at the interceſſion of ſome officers, which interceſſion the admiral himſelf prompted them to make, he moſt readily pardoned him. The daring exploit of this man might have procured him the office of boatſwain, before the cloſe of the expedition, in one of his king's ſhips, if the whole tenor of his conduct, both before and after the ſtorming of the fort, had not been ſo very irregular, as to render it impoſſible for the admiral to advance him from his humble ſtation to a higher rank, how ſtrongly ſoever his inclinations led him to do it. This intrepid fellow, after having ſerved in every one of the engagements between Admiral Pocock and the French in the Eaſt-Indies, and receiving a wound in one of them, became a penſioner to the cheſt at Chatham, and afterwards a ſailor in one of the guardſhips at Portſmouth.

On the 1ſt of January, 1757, the admiral, with two ſhips, appeared before the town of Calcutta, and was received by a briſk fire from the batteries. This ſalute was returned ſo warmly, that the enemy's guns were ſoon ſilenced, and in leſs than two hours the place and fort were abandoned. Colonel Clive, on the other ſide, had inveſted the town, and made his attack with that vigour and intrepidity peculiar to himſelf, which greatly contributed to the ſudden reduction of the ſettlement. As ſoon as the fort was ſurrendered, the brave and active Captain Coote, with his majeſty's troops, took poſſeſſion, and found ninety-one pieces of cannon, four mortars, abundance of ammunition, ſtores, and proviſion, with every requiſite for ſuſtaining an obſtinate ſiege. Thus the Engliſh were re-eſtabliſhed in the two ſtrongeſt fortreſſes in the Ganges, with the inconſiderable loſs of nine ſeamen, and three ſoldiers.

A few days after, Hughley, a city of great trade, ſituated higher up the river, was reduced with as little difficulty, but infinitely greater prejudice to the nabob, as here his ſtorehouſes of ſalt, and vaſt granaries for the ſupport of his army, were burnt and deſtroyed.

Incenſed at the almoſt inſtantaneous loſs of all his conqueſts, and demolition of the city of Hughley, the Viceroy of Bengal diſcouraged all advances to an accommodation, which was propoſed by the admiral and chiefs of the company, and aſſembled an army of twenty thouſand horſe, and fifteen thouſand foot, fully reſolved to expel the Engliſh out of his dominions, and take ample vengeance for the diſgraces he had lately ſuſtained. He was ſeen marching by the Engliſh camp, in his way to Calcutta, on the 2d of February, where he encamped, about a mile from the town. Colonel Clive immediately made application to the admiral for a reinforcement, and ſix hundred men, under the command of Captain Warwick, were accordingly drafted from the different ſhips and ſent to aſſiſt his little army. Clive drew out his forces, advanced in three columns towards the enemy, and began the attack ſo vigorouſly, that the viceroy retreated, after a feeble reſiſtance, with the loſs of a thouſand men killed, wounded, and taken priſoners, five hundred horſes, great numbers of draft bullocks, and four elephants. A complete victory would have crowned this brave exploit, had not an intenſe fog, which rendered objects inviſible at the diſtance of two or three yards, cauſed the guides to miſtake their way, and fail of conducting the troops to the nabob's head-quarters. However, it occaſioned the nabob to draw off his forces, and march back to his capital, having previouſly made overtures for a peace, which was ſoon after ratified. Thus by the ſpirited and gallant behaviour of the two Engliſh commanders, the affairs of the company, which a few months before ſeemed verging on inevitable ruin, were not only quite retrieved, but put upon a firmer and better footing than ever.

At the very time that peace was thus reſtored, intelligence was received of a war with France, which was ſoon after authenticated by the arrival of Commodore James in the Revenge. As the French garriſon at Chandernagore was known to conſiſt of five hundred Europeans, and more than one thouſand ſepoys; had this force been joined to the nabob's, it might have proved fatal to our intereſts in thoſe parts. Fortunately the commodore brought with him two tranſports and a detachment of five hundred men, which enabled the commanders to enter immediately on action againſt the French. On his paſſage thither, Commodore James fell in with and took one French indiaman, named l'Indien, laden with warlike ſtores and proviſions for the French ſquadron, then at the iſland of Máuritius, the loſs of which they ſenſibly felt, and thereby their operations were conſiderably retarded.

The latter end of February, Colonel Clive quitted his camp at Calcutta, and croſſing the Ganges, on the 13th of March he inveſted Chandernagore. The French made a ſally the next day, but were ſo bravely oppoſed by Captain Coote, that they precipitately retired, and quitting their outer works, ſhut themſelves up within their fort. On the 19th the Kent, Tyger, and Saliſbury, caſt anchor before the place, to the great diſcomfiture of the beſieged, who imagined it impoſſible for ſuch large ſhips to be brought into that ſtation. Every precaution had been taken by the French to obſtruct the approaches of a fleet, by ſinking veſſels laden with ballaſt, whilſt a large ſand-bank, which ſpread itſelf juſt below the fort of Chandernagore, rendered the paſſage extremely narrow. Theſe impediments, however, were not ſufficient to impede the ardour of the gallant Admiral Watſon. On the 23d of March, the Tyger, bearing Admiral Pocock's flag, took the lead, and paſſing between the ſunken ſhips, anchored oppoſite to the north-eaſt baſtion; the Kent, with Admiral Watſon's flag, followed. Whilſt the ſhips were approaching, a furious cannonade was poured upon them by the enemy without a ſhot being returned, until they caſt anchor, when inſtantly a tremendous diſcharge of great guns dealt deſtruction on the garriſon and fortifications; ſtill the conteſt was ſuſtained with equal ſpirit on both ſides. The flank-guns of the ſouth-weſt baſtion did terrible execution to the Kent, and the admiral's aid-de-camps being all wounded, he himſelf went down to Lieutenant William Brereton, who commanded the lower-deck battery, and ordered him particularly to direct his fire againſt thoſe guns, which had ſuch an effect as ſoon after to ſilence them. In the heat of the engagement ſeveral of the enemy's ſhot ſtruck the Kent at the ſame time; one entered near the foremaſt, and ſet fire to two or three thirty-two pound cartridges of gunpowder, as the boys held them in their hands ready to charge the guns.

By the exploſion, the wad-nets and other looſe things took fire between decks, and the whole ſhip was ſo filled with ſmoke, that the men in their confuſion cried out, "ſhe was on fire in the gunner's ſtore-room;" imagining from the ſhock they had felt from the balls, that a ſhell had actually fallen into her. This notion ſtruck a panic into the greateſt part of the crew, and ſeventy or eighty jumped out of the port-holes into the boats that were along ſide of the ſhip. The French immediately perceived this confuſion, and to avail themſelves of it redoubled their fire. The flames on-board the Kent were however ſoon extinguiſhed, and the lieutenant running to the ports begged the ſeamen to return to the ſhip, and upbraided them for deſerting their quarters; but his intreaties were ineffectual, until raiſing his voice to its higheſt pitch, he exclaimed, "Are *you* Britons? *you* Engliſhmen, and fly from danger; for ſhame! for ſhame!" This reproach had the deſired effect; to a man they immediately returned into the ſhip, repaired to their quarters, and renewed a ſpirited fire on the enemy. In about three hours from the commencement of the attack, the parapets of the north and ſouth baſtions were almoſt beaten down; the guns were in general diſmounted, and it was plainly diſcerned from the main-top of the Kent, that the ruins from the parapet and merlons had entirely blocked up thoſe few guns, which otherwiſe might have been fit for ſervice. At length they hung out the white flag, and hoſtilities ceaſed. The admiral ſent Lieutenant Brereton, (the only commiſſion officer on-board the Kent that was not killed or wounded,) and Captain Coote, of the king's regiment, with a flag of truce to the fort, who ſoon returned accompanied by the French governor's ſon, with articles of capitulation, which being ſettled by the admirals and colonel, the Engliſh ſoon after took poſſeſſion of the place. By the treaty of capitulation, the director, counſellors, and inferior ſervants of the ſettlement, were allowed to depart with their wearing apparel; the Jeſuits were permitted to take away their church-ornaments, and the natives were protected in their perſons and effects: the garriſon ſurrendered priſoners of war.

The loſs on-board the Tyger and Kent (the only two ſhips that could engage, the Saliſbury being driven out of action, to the great mortification of her crew) was conſiderable: three of the Kent's lower-deck guns were diſmounted, and the ſame number on her upper-deck: ſhe received one hundred and thirty-eight cannon-ſhot through her ſide next the fort, beſides being greatly damaged in her maſts and rigging. Thirty-ſeven men were killed upon the ſpot, and ſeventy-four wounded, more or leſs. Among the dead was Mr. Perreau, firſt lieutenant to the admiral, Mr. Rawlins Hey, third lieutenant; Captain Speke was dangerouſly wounded in the leg, and the ſame ſhot carried off the thigh of his ſon, who afterwards died of the wound. Mr. James Liſter, under-ſecretary to the admiral, as he was ſtanding by him taking minutes, received a wound in the leg; Mr. Barnes, the purſer, received a violent contuſion in both his thighs from the wind of a ball, which paſſed very near, but did not ſtrike him. The number of the ſlain on-board the Tyger almoſt equalled thoſe of the Kent. Admiral Pocock himſelf was ſlightly wounded; Mr. Phillips, the maſter, mortally. The loſs on the ſide of the French was never certainly known, but it was unqueſtionably very great. Forty were carried off dead from the ſouth-eaſt baſtion, and that on the north-eaſt was twice cleared of its defendants. During the action the ſhips lay ſo near the fort, that the muſket-balls fired from their tops, by ſtriking againſt the Chunam walls of the governor's palace, which was in the very centre of the fort, were beaten as flat as half crowns.

Succeſs had hitherto attended all the operations of the Britiſh commanders, becauſe they were concerted with foreſight and unanimity; and executed with that vigour and ſpirit which deſervedly raiſed them high in the eſteem of their country. They reduced the nabob to reaſonable terms of accommodation before they alarmed the French; and now the power of the latter was deſtroyed, they entered upon meaſures to oblige the viceroy to a ſtrict performance of the treaty he had ſo lately ſigned. However ſpecious his promiſes were, they found him extremely dilatory in the execution of ſeveral articles of the treaty, which, in effect, was the ſame to the Engliſh commerce, as if none had been concluded. The company's goods were loaded with high duties, and ſeveral other infractions of the peace committed, upon ſuch frivolous pretences as evidently demonſtrated that he ſought to come to an open rupture as ſoon as his projects were ripe for execution. In a word, he diſcovered all along a manifeſt partiality to the French, whoſe emiſſaries cajoled him with promiſes that he ſhould be joined by ſuch a body of their European troops, under M. de Buſſy, as would enable him to cruſh the power of the Engliſh, whom they had taught him to fear and to hate. As recommencing hoſtilities againſt ſo powerful a prince, was in itſelf dangerous, and, if poſſible, to be avoided, the affair was laid before the council of Calcutta, and canvaſſed with all the circumſpection and caution that a meaſure required, on which depended the fate of the whole trade of Bengal.

During theſe deliberations, a moſt fortunate incident occured, that ſoon determined the council to come to an open rupture. The leading perſons in the viceroy's court, found themſelves oppreſſed by his haughtineſs and inſolence. The ſame ſpirit of diſcontent appeared among the principal officers of his army; they were well acquainted with his perfidy, ſaw his preparations for war, and were ſenſible that the peace of the country could never be reſtored, unleſs either the Engliſh were expelled, or the nabob depoſed. In conſequence, a plan was concerted for diveſting him of all his power; and the conſpiracy was conducted by Jaffier Ali Khan, his prime miniſter, and chief commander, a nobleman of great influence and authority in the province. A treaty was concluded between this Meer Jaffier Ali Khan and the Engliſh company; and a plan concerted with this nobleman and the other malcontents for their defection from the viceroy. Theſe previous meaſures being taken, Colonel Clive was ordered to take the field with his little army. Admiral Watſon undertook the defence of Chandernagore, and the garriſon was detached to reinforce the colonel, together with fifty ſeamen to be employed as gunners, and in directing the artillery. On the 19th of June a detachment was ſent to attack Cutwa fort and town, ſituated on that branch of the river forming the iſland of Caſſimbuzar. This place ſurrendered at the firſt ſummons; and here the colonel halted with the army for three days, expecting advices from Ali Khan. Diſappointed of the hoped-for intelligence, he croſſed the river, and marched to Plaſſey, where he encamped. On the 23d of June, 1757, was fought the memorable battle of Plaſſey. Clive had but a handful of men: at day-break, the ſuba advanced to attack him, at the head of fifteen thouſand horſe, and near thirty thouſand infantry, with about forty pieces of heavy cannon, conducted and managed by French gunners, on whoſe courage and dexterity he placed great dependance. They began to cannonade the Engliſh camp about ſix in the morning; but a ſevere ſhower falling at noon, they withdrew their artillery. Colonel Clive ſeized this opportunity to take poſſeſſion of a bank and two other poſts of conſequence, which they in vain endeavoured to retake. Then he ſtormed an angle of their camp, covered with a double breaſt-work, together with an eminence which they occupied. At the beginning of this attack, ſome of their chiefs being ſlain, the men were ſo diſpirited, that they ſoon gave way; but ſtill Meer Jaffier Ali

Khan, who commanded their left wing, forbore declaring himſelf openly. After a ſhort conteſt the enemy were put to flight, the nabob's camp, baggage, and fifty pieces of cannon, taken, and a moſt complete victory obtained.

Colonel Clive purſuing his advantage, marched to Muxadavad, the capital of the province, and was there joined by Ali Khan and the malcontents. It was before concerted that this nobleman ſhould be inveſted with the dignity of nabob; accordingly, the colonel proceeded ſolemnly to depoſe Surajah Dowlat, and, with the ſame ceremony, to ſubſtitute Ali Khan in his room, who was publicly acknowledged by the people as ſuba, or viceroy, of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa. Soon after, the late viceroy was taken, and put to death by his ſucceſſor, who readily complied with all the conditions of his elevation. Thus commenced the practice of nabob-making, which has given to private men the functions of ſovereignty itſelf. This great revolution was effected in the ſpace of fourteen days; the Engliſh acquired an ally, whoſe intereſt compelled him to remain firm to his engagements, and who governed a vaſt country, ſuperior in wealth, extent, fertility, and number of inhabitants, to moſt European kingdoms. Beſides the ſums ſtipulated in the treaty to be paid, the ſoldiers and ſailors were gratified with 600,000l. as a reward for the courage and intrepidity they exerted.

Bengal had but juſt beheld the ſunſhine of peace and proſperity, when the public joy felt a conſiderable diminution by the death of Vice-admiral Watſon, who fell a victim to the unwholeſomeneſs of the climate, on the 16th of Auguſt, univerſally eſteemed and regretted. About the ſame time, the Engliſh factory and fort of Vizagapatam, on the Coromandel coaſt, were ſurrendered to the French.

We now turn our eyes to the continent of Europe, where we ſee the beginning of the year marked with a ſtriking inſtance of the dreadful effects of frantic enthuſiaſm. France had long enjoyed a monarch, eaſy, complying, good-natured, and averſe to all that wore the appearance of buſineſs or of war. Louis XV. contented with the pleaſures of indolence, ſought no greatneſs beyond what he enjoyed, nor purſued any ambitious aim through the dictates of his own diſpoſition. Of all men on earth ſuch a prince had the greateſt reaſon to expect an exemption from plots againſt his perſon, and cabals among his ſubjects; yet was an attempt made upon his life by a man, who, though placed in the loweſt ſphere of fortune, had reſolution to face the greateſt dangers, and enthuſiaſm ſufficient to ſuſtain, without ſhrinking, all the tortures which the cruelty of man could invent, or his crimes render neceſſary. The name of this fanatic was Robert Francis Damien, born in the ſuburb of St. Catharine, in the city of Arras. He had lived in the ſervice of ſeveral families, whence he was generally diſmiſſed on account of the impatience, the melancholy, and ſullenneſs, of his diſpoſition. So humble was the ſtation of a perſon who was reſolved to ſtep forth from obſcurity, and, by one deſperate effort, draw upon himſelf the attention of all Europe. On the 5th of January, as the king was ſtepping into his coach, to return to Trianon, whence he had that day come to Verſailles, Damien, mingling among his attendants, ſtabbed him with a knife on the right ſide, between the fourth and fifth ribs. His majeſty, applying his hand immediately to his ſide, cried out, "I am wounded! ſeize him; but do not hurt him." Happily, the wound was not dangerous, as the knife, taking an oblique direction, miſſed the vital parts. As for the aſſaſſin, he made no attempts to eſcape; but, ſuffering himſelf quietly to be ſeized, was conveyed to the guard-room, where, being interrogated if he committed the horrid action, he boldly anſwered in the affirmative. A proceſs againſt him was inſtantly

commenced

commenced at Verſailles; many perſons, ſuppoſed acceſſaries to the deſign upon the king's life, were ſent to the Baſtile; the aſſaſſin himſelf was put to the torture, and the moſt excrutiating torments were applied, with intention to extort a confeſſion of the reaſons that could induce him to ſo execrable an attempt upon his ſovereign. Inciſions were made into the muſcular parts of his legs, arms, and thighs, into which boiling oil was poured. Every refinement on cruelty, that human invention could ſuggeſt, was practiſed without effect; nothing could overcome his obſtinacy; and his ſilence was conſtrued into a preſumption that he muſt have had accomplices in the plot. To render his puniſhment more public and conſpicuous, he was removed to Paris, there to undergo a repetition of all his former tortures, with ſuch additional circumſtances as the moſt fertile and cruel diſpoſitions could deviſe for increaſing his miſery and torment. Being conducted to the Concergerie, an iron bed, which likewiſe ſerved for a chair, was prepared for him, and to this he was faſtened with chains. The torture was again applied, and a phyſician ordered to attend, to ſee what degree of pain he could ſupport. Nothing, howver, material was extorted; for what he one moment confeſſed, he recanted the next. It is not within our province (and we conſider it as a felicity) to relate all the circumſtances of this cruel and tragical event. Sufficient it is, that, after ſuffering the moſt exquiſite torments that human nature could invent, or man ſupport, his judges thought proper to terminate his miſery by a death ſhocking to imagination, and ſhameful to humanity. On the 28th of March he was conducted, amidſt a vaſt concourſe of the populace, to the Greve, the common place of execution, ſtripped naked, and faſtened to the ſcaffold by iron gyves. One of his hands was then burnt in liquid flaming ſulphur; his thighs, legs, and arms, were torn with red hot pincers; boiling oil, melted lead, reſin, and ſulphur, were poured into the wounds; tight ligatures tied round his limbs to prepare him for diſmemberment; young and vigorous horſes applied to the draft, and the unhappy criminal pulled, with all their force, to the utmoſt extenſion of his ſinews, for the ſpace of an hour; during all which time he preſerved his ſenſes and conſtancy. At length the phyſician and ſurgeon attending, declared it would be impoſſible to accompliſh the diſmemberment, unleſs the tendons were ſeparated; upon which orders were given to the executioner to cut the ſinews at the joints of the arms and legs. The horſes drew afreſh: a thigh and an arm were ſeparated, and, after ſeveral pulls, the unfortunate wretch expired under the extremity of pain. His body and limbs were reduced to aſhes under the ſcaffold; his father, wife, daughter, and family, baniſhed the kingdom for ever; the name of Damien effaced and obliterated, and the innocent involved in the puniſhment of the guilty. Thus ended the procedure againſt Damien and his family, in a manner not very favourable to the avowed clemency of Louis, or the acknowledged humanity of the French nation. It appeared from undoubted evidence, that the attempt on the king's life was the reſult of inſanity, and a diſturbed imagination. Several inſtances of a diſordered mind had before been obſerved in his conduct, and the deteſtation juſtly due to the enormity of his crime ought now to have been abſorbed in the conſideration of his misfortune, the greateſt that can befal human nature.—We ſhall ſee in the progreſs of this hiſtory, how differently thoſe unfortunate perſons have been treated, who, under the influence of mental derangement, have attempted the life of our beloved ſovereign.

At the cloſe of the laſt campaign, the King of Pruſſia and Marſhal Keith wintered in Saxony, having their cantonments between Pirna and the frontier along the Elbe; and Marſhal Schwerin, returning into Sileſia, took up his quarters in the country of Glatz.

In the mean time, the empreſs queen, finding the force which ſhe had ſent out againſt the King of Pruſſia, was not ſufficient to prevent his deſigns, made the neceſſary requiſitions to her allies for the auxiliaries they had engaged to furniſh. In conſequence of theſe requiſitions, the czarina, true to her engagements, diſpatched above an hundred thouſand of her troops, who began their march in the month of November, and proceeded to the borders of Lithuania, with deſign particuliarly to invade Ducal Pruſſia, whilſt a ſtrong fleet was equipped in the Baltic, to aid the operations of this numerous army. The Auſtrian army, aſſembled in Bohemia, amounted to upwards of fourſcore thouſand men, commanded by Prince Charles of Lorraine and Marſhal Brown. The Swedes had not yet openly declared themſelves; but it was well known, that though their king was allied in blood and inclination to his Pruſſian majeſty, yet the jealouſy which the ſenate of Sweden entertained of their ſovereign, and the hope of recovering their ancient poſſeſſions in Pomerania, by means of the preſent troubles, together with their old attachment to France, newly cemented by intrigues and ſubſidies, would certainly induce them to join the general confederacy. The Duke of Mecklenbourg took the ſame party, and agreed to join the Swediſh army, when it ſhould be aſſembled, with ſix thouſand men. Beſides all theſe preparations againſt the King of Pruſſia, he was, in his quality of Elector of Brandenbourg, put under the ban of the empire by the aulic council; declared deprived of all his rights, privileges, and prerogatives; his fiefs were eſcheated into the exchequer of the empire; and all the circles accordingly ordered to furniſh their reſpective contingencies for putting this ſentence in execution.

In this dangerous ſituation, thus menaced on all ſides, and ſeemingly on the very brink of inevitable deſtruction, the Pruſſian monarch owed his preſervation to his own courage and activity. In the ſpring of 1757, his armies poured into Bohemia from two different quarters, while the king himſelf prepared to enter it from a third. Marſhal Schwerin entered from Sileſia; the Prince of Bevern from Luſatia, where he defeated an army of twenty-eight thouſand Auſtrians that oppoſed his paſſage. As the intentions of the king himſelf were not known, the Auſtrians detached a body of twenty thouſand men from their main army to obſerve his motions. This was no ſooner done than the king cut off all communication between the detachment and the main body; and having joined his two generals with incredible celerity, he engaged the Auſtrians near Prague, totally defeated them, took their camp, military cheſt, and cannon; but loſt the brave General Schwerin, who was killed at the age of 82, with a colonel's ſtandard in his hand. On the Auſtrian ſide, Marſhal Brown was wounded, and died in a ſhort time, though it is ſuppoſed more from the chagrin he ſuffered than from the dangerous nature of the wound itſelf.

About forty thouſand of the Auſtrian army took refuge in Prague, while the reſt fled different ways. The city was inſtantly inveſted by the king, and all ſuccours were cut off. The great number of troops which it contained rendered an attack inadviſable, but ſeemed to render the reduction of it by famine inevitable; however, the king, to accompliſh his purpoſe the more ſpeedily, prepared to bombard the town. On the 29th of May, after a moſt dreadful ſtorm of thunder and lightning, four batteries began to play on the city. From theſe were thrown, every twenty-four hours, two hundred and eighty-eight bombs, beſides a vaſt number of red hot balls, ſo that it was ſoon on fire in every quarter. The garriſon made a vigorous defence, and one well-conducted ſally; but had the miſfortune to be repulſed with great loſs. The magiſtrates, burghers, and clergy, ſeeing their city on the point of being reduced to an heap of rubbiſh, ſupplicated the commander in the moſt earneſt manner to capitulate; but he was deaf to their intreaties, and drove twelve thouſand of the moſt uſeleſs mouths out of town, who were quickly driven in again by the Pruſſians.

Thus the affairs of the empreſs queen ſeemed verging to deſtruction, when Leopold Count Daun took upon him the command of the remains of Marſhal Brown's army. This general arrived within a few miles of Prague the day after the great battle. He immediately collected the ſcattered fugitives with the greateſt diligence, and retired with them to a ſtrong poſt in the neighbourhood, from whence he gave the troops in Prague hopes of a ſpeedy relief. It was now the King of Pruſſia's buſineſs, either to have attempted to make himſelf maſter of the city by one deſperate effort, or entirely to have abandoned the enterpriſe, and driven Count Daun from his poſt before his troops had recovered from the terror of their late defeat; but, by attempting to do both, he rendered himſelf incapable of doing either. Though the army of Count Daun already amounted to ſixty thouſand men, and though they were ſtrongly entrenched, and defended by a vaſt train of artillery, his majeſty thought proper to ſend no more than thirty-two thouſand men. This body made the arduous attempt on the 18th of June; but though they did all that human courage and conduct could do, and though the king himſelf at laſt charged at the head of his cavalry, the Pruſſians were driven out of the field with great loſs. This engagement was named *the battle of Colin.*

The firſt conſequence of the battle of Colin was, that the King of Pruſſia was obliged to raiſe the ſiege of Prague; ſoon after which, he was obliged to quit Bohemia, and take refuge in Saxony. The Auſtrians harraſſed him as much as poſſible; but, notwithſtanding their great ſuperiority, their armies were not in a condition to make any deciſive attempt upon him, as the frontiers of Saxony abounded with ſituations eaſily defended. In the mean time, the Ruſſians, who had hitherto been very dilatory in their motions, began to exert themſelves, and enter Ducal Pruſſia, under M. Apraxin and Fermor, where they committed innumerable cruelties and exceſſes. A large body of Auſtrians entered Sileſia, and penetrated as far as Breſlau. Then they made a turn backwards, and beſieged Schweidnitz. Another body entered Luſatia, and made themſelves maſters of Zittau. An army of twenty-two thouſand Swedes entered Pruſſian Pomerania, took the towns of Anclam and Demmein, and laid the whole country under contribution.

The Britiſh affairs in Germany had at the beginning of the war worn a very unfavourable aſpect. The Hanoverians were commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, who was greatly outnumbered by the enemy. He was driven beyond the Weſer, the paſſage of which might have been diſputed with ſome appearance of ſucceſs; but the French were ſuffered to paſs it unmoleſted. The Hanoverians were driven from one part of the country to another, till at length they made a ſtand near a village called Haſtenback, where it was hoped the numbers of the enemy would have the leaſt opportunity of coming to a general engagement. The Hanoverians, however, left the field of battle to the French, after a faint reſiſtance. Their enemies purſued, and the duke retired towards Stade; by which means he marched into a country from whence he could neither procure proviſions nor attack the enemy with any hopes of ſucceſs. Here, being unable either to eſcape or advance, he was compelled to ſign a capitulation by which the whole army laid down their arms, and were diſperſed into different quarters of cantonment. By this remarkable capitulation, which was called the *capitulation of Cloſter Seven*, Hanover was obliged to ſubmit quietly to the French, who were now determined to turn their arms againſt the King of

Pruſſia. They ſoon made their way into Halbertſtadt and the Old Marche of Brandenbourg, firſt exacting contributions, and then plundering the towns. The army of the empire, being reinforced by that of the Prince de Soubiſe, after many delays, was on full march to enter Saxony, which left the Auſtrians at liberty to exert the greateſt part of their force in the reduction of Sileſia. General Haddick penetrated through Luſatia, paſſed by the Pruſſian armies, and ſuddenly appeared before the gates of Berlin, which city he laid under contribution. He retired on the approach of a body of Pruſſians; yet he ſtill found means to keep ſuch a poſt as interrupted the king's communication with Sileſia. The deſtruction of the King of Pruſſia therefore now ſeemed inevitable. Every exertion which he had made, though brave and well-conducted, had been unſucceſsful. His general, Lehwald, who oppoſed the Ruſſians, had orders to attack them at all events. He obeyed his orders; and with thirty thouſand men attacked ſixty thouſand of the enemy, ſtrongly entrenched at a place called Norkitten. The Pruſſians behaved with the greateſt valour; but after having killed five times more of the enemy than they themſelves loſt, they were obliged to retire, though more formidable after their defeat than the Ruſſians after their victory. The king, in the mean time, exerted himſelf on every ſide, and his enemies fled everywhere before him; but whilſt he purſued one body, another gained upon him in ſome other part, and the winter came on faſt, while his ſtrength decayed, and that of his adverſaries ſeemed to increaſe on every quarter.

The Pruſſian monarch, however, though diſtreſſed, did not abandon himſelf to deſpair, or loſe that wonderful preſence of mind which has ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed him in all his military enterpriſes. He induſtriouſly delayed a deciſive action till the approach of winter; but at laſt, after various movements, on November 5, 1757, he met at Roſbach with the united army of his enemies, commanded by the Prince of Saxe Hilburghauſen and the Prince de Soubiſe. The allied army amounted to fifty thouſand men complete; but moſt of the troops of the circles were new-raiſed, and many of them not well affected to the cauſe. The Pruſſians did not exceed twenty-five thouſand men; but they were ſuperior to any troops in the world, and were inſpired, by the preſence of their king, with the moſt enthuſiaſtic valour. The Auſtrians were defeated with the loſs of three thouſand killed, eight generals, two hundred and fifty officers of different ranks, and ſix thouſand private ſoldiers, taken priſoners, while night alone prevented the total deſtruction of the army.

By this battle the king was ſet free on one ſide; but this only gave him an opportunity of renewing his labours on another. The Auſtrians had a great force, and now began to make a proportionable progreſs in Sileſia. After a ſiege of ſixteen days, they had reduced the ſtrong fortreſs of Schweidnitz, and obliged the Pruſſian garriſon of four thouſand men to ſurrender priſoners of war. Hearing then of the victory at Roſbach, and that the King of Pruſſia was in full march to relieve Sileſia, they reſolved to attack the Prince of Bevern in his ſtrong camp under the walls of Breſlau. They attacked the prince's army on November 22d; but their attack was ſuſtained with the greateſt reſolution. The ſlaughter of the Auſtrians was prodigious. A great part of the enemy had retired from the field of battle, and the reſt were preparing to retire, when all at once the Pruſſian generals took the ſame reſolution. Their army had ſuffered much in the engagement, and they became apprehenſive of a total defeat in caſe their intrenchments ſhould be forced in any part; for which reaſon they quitted their ſtrong poſt, and retired behind the Oder. Two days after, the Prince of Bevern, going to reconnoitre without eſcort, attended

only

only by a groom, was taken priſoner by an advanced party of Croats, a ſmall body of whom had croſſed the Oder.

On this the town of Breſlau immediately ſurrendered; where, as well as at Schweidnitz, the Auſtrians found great quantities of proviſions, ammunition, and money. All Sileſia was on the point of falling into their hands, and the Pruſſian affairs were going into the utmoſt diſtraction, when the king himſelf by a moſt rapid march paſſed through Thuringia, Miſnia, and Luſatia, in ſpite of the utmoſt efforts of the Generals Haddick and Marſhal, who were placed there to oppoſe him; and, entering Sileſia on the 2d of December, joined the Prince of Bevern's corps, who repaſſed the Oder to meet him. The garriſon of Schweidnitz, who had been made priſoners of war, alſo joined the king's army unexpectedly; and their preſence contributed not a little, notwithſtanding the ſmallneſs of their number, to raiſe the ſpirits of the whole army. They had ſubmitted to the capitulation with the greateſt reluctance; but, as the Auſtrians were conducting them to priſon, they happened to receive intelligence of the victory at Roſbach: on which they immediately roſe on the eſcort that conducted them, and entirely diſperſed it; and afterwards marching in ſuch a direction as they thought might moſt readily lead them to their king, they accidentally fell in with his army.

His Pruſſian majeſty now approached Breſlau; on which the Auſtrians, confiding in their ſuperiority, (for they exceeded eighty thouſand, while the Pruſſians ſcarce amounted to thirty-eight thouſand,) abandoned their ſtrong camp, the ſame which the Prince of Bevern had formerly occupied, and advanced to give him battle. The king did not intend by any means to diſappoint them, but advanced on his part with the greateſt celerity. The two armies met on December 5th, near the village of Leuthen. The Auſtrians were commanded by Prince Charles of Lorraine and Count

Daun. Count Daun made the beſt diſpoſitions poſſible. The ground ocupied by his army was a plain, with ſmall eminences in ſome parts. Theſe eminences they ſurrounded with artillery; and as the ground was alſo interſperſed with thickets, they ſought to turn theſe likewiſe to their advantage. On their right and left were hills, on which they planted batteries of cannon. The ground in-their front was interſected by many cauſeways; and to make the whole more impracticable, the Auſtrians had felled a great number of trees, and ſcattered them in the way. It was almoſt impoſſible at the beginning of the engagement for the Pruſſian cavalry to act, on account of theſe impediments; but, by a judicious diſpoſition made by the king himſelf, all difficulties were overcome. His majeſty had placed four battalions behind the cavalry of his right wing; foreſeeing that General Nadaſti, who was placed on the enemy's left with a corps de reſerve, deſigned to attack him in flank.

It happened as he had foreſeen: that general's cavalry attacked the Pruſſian right wing with great fury; but he was received with ſuch a ſevere fire from the four battalions, that he was obliged to retire in diſorder. The king's flank then, well covered and ſupported, was enabled to act with ſuch order and vigour as repulſed the enemy. The Auſtrian artillery was alſo ſilenced by that of the Pruſſians; however, the Auſtrians continued to make a gallant reſiſtance during the whole battle. After having been once thrown into diſorder, they rallied all their forces about Leuthen, which was defended on every ſide by entrenchments and redoubts. The Pruſſians attacked them with the utmoſt impetuoſity, and at laſt became maſters of the poſt; on which the enemy fled on all ſides, and a total rout-enſued. In this battle the Auſtrians loſt ſix thouſand killed on the ſpot, and as many as twenty thouſand taken priſoners, and upwards of two hundred pieces of cannon, with forty-three pair of colours.

The conſequences of this victory were very great. Breſlau was immediately inveſted, and ſurrendered on December 29th; the garriſon amounting to fourteen thouſand men were made priſoners of war. The blockade of Schweidnitz was formed as cloſely as the ſeaſon of the year would permit; while detached Pruſſian parties over-ran the whole country of Sileſia, and reduced every place of leſs importance. The Ruſſians, who had ravaged and deſtroyed the country in ſuch a manner that they could not ſubſiſt in it, thought proper to retire out of the Pruſſian dominions altogether. Thus General Lehwald was left at liberty to act againſt the Swedes; and them he quickly drove out of Pruſſian Pomerania, the whole of which country he had not only recovered, but alſo ſome part of Swediſh Pomerania. Thus the duchy of Mecklenburg being left quite expoſed, the king took ample vengeance on it by exacting the moſt ſevere contributions of men and money.

To complete this monarch's good fortune alſo, the French, who had retired after the battle of Roſbach, were now oppoſed by the Hanoverians under Prince Ferdinand, who kept them ſo well employed, that, during the reſt of the war, the King of Pruſſia had no more trouble from them. This was in conſequence of a breach of the treaty of Cloſter Seven; for ſoon after this capitulation, both ſides began to complain that the treaty was not ſtrictly obſerved. The Hanoverians exclaimed againſt the rapacity of the French general and the brutality of his ſoldiers. The French retorted the charge againſt them, accuſed them of inſolence and inſurrection; and being ſenſible of their own ſuperiority, reſolved to bind them ſtrictly to their terms of agreement. The Hanoverians only wiſhed for a pretence to take arms, and a general to head them. Neither were long waiting. The oppreſſions of the tax-gatherers, whom the French had appointed, were conſidered as ſo ſevere, that the army roſe to vindicate the freedom of their country, while Ferdinand, Prince of Brunſwick, put himſelf at their head. As ſoon as this was known in Britain, large ſupplies were granted both for the ſervice of the King of Pruſſia, and to enable the Hanoverian army to act vigourouſly in conjunction with him.

The beginning of the year 1758 was favourable to the arms of his Pruſſian majeſty. On the 3d of April he commenced his operations againſt Schweidnitz, and puſhed the ſiege ſo vigorouſly, that the place ſurrendered in thirteen days. He then diſpoſed his forces in ſuch a manner as might beſt guard his dominions againſt his numerous enemies. For this purpoſe Count Dohna commanded a body of troops on the ſide of Pomerania; another conſiderable body was poſted between Wohlau and Glogau, in order to cover Sileſia from the Ruſſians, in caſe they ſhould make their inroad that way. An army, in a little time after, was formed in Saxony, commanded by the king's brother Prince Henry. This army conſiſted of three battalions and forty-five ſquadrons, and was deſigned to make head againſt the army of the empire; which, by great efforts made during the winter, and the junction of a large body of Auſtrians, was again in a condition to act. Between all theſe armies a ready communication was kept up by a proper choice of poſts. After the reduction of Schweidnitz, the king having made a ſhow of invading Bohemia, ſuddenly burſt into Moravia, where in a ſhort time he made himſelf maſter of the whole country, and on the 27th of May laid ſiege to Olmutz the capital. Of this M. Daun was no ſooner informed, than he took his route to Moravia through Bohemia: and, though he was not in a condition to riſk a battle, nor indeed would have done ſo unleſs he had had a very conſiderable advantage; yet, by placing himſelf in a ſtrong ſituation where he could not be attacked, by harraſſing the king's troops and cutting off their convoys, he at laſt obliged him to abandon the enterpriſe.

priſe. The king, however, who frequently owed a good part of his ſucceſs to the impenetrable ſecrecy with which he covered all his deſigns, gave not the leaſt hint of his intention to raiſe the ſiege of Olmutz. On the contrary, the very day before the ſiege was raiſed, the firing continued as briſk as ever; but in the night (July 1,) the whole army took the road to Bohemia in two columns, and gained an entire march upon the Auſtrians. Thus, notwithſtanding the utmoſt efforts of his enemies, the Pruſſian army reached Bohemia with very little moleſtation. Here he ſeized upon a large magazine at Leutomiſſel; defeated ſome corps of Auſtrians who had attempted to interrupt his progreſs; and arrived at Konigſgratz, of which he took poſſeſſion, after driving from it ſeven thouſand Auſtrians who were intrenched there. This city and ſeveral other diſtricts he laid under contribution; but ſoon after entered Sileſia, and marched with the utmoſt rapidity to encounter the Ruſſians, who had at that time united their forces under Generals Brown and Fermor, entered the New Marche of Brandenburg, and laid ſiege to Cuſtrin.

The king arrived at this city at a very critical period. The Ruſſians had laid ſiege to it on the 15th of Auguſt; and though they were not well ſkilled in managing artillery, yet, by furious and unremitting diſcharges at random, they threw in ſuch a number of bombs and red-hot balls, that the town was ſoon on fire in every quarter. Some of the wretched inhabitants were burned; others buried in the ruins of their houſes, or killed by the balls which fell like hail in the ſtreets; while many of the ſurvivors abandoned their habitations, and fled out of the town on that ſide where it was not inveſted. The governor did every thing for the defence of the place; but as the walls were built after the old manner, it was impoſſible that the town could have made a defence for any length of time, eſpecially as the principal magazine of the beſieged had been blown up. The avenger of all theſe injuries, however, was now at hand. The king came in ſight of the Ruſſians on the 25th of Auguſt, after a march of fifty-ſix days, and beheld the country everywhere deſolated, and the villages in flames, by the depredations of his cruel enemy, who had raiſed the ſiege at his approach, and retired towards a neighbouring village named Zorndorff. At nine o'clock in the morning, a moſt terrible fire of cannon and mortars poured deſtruction on the right wing of the Ruſſian army for two hours without intermiſſion. The ſlaughter was ſuch as might have been expected; but the Ruſſians kept their ground with aſtoniſhing reſolution, new regiments ſtill preſſing forward to ſupply the places of thoſe that fell. When the firſt line had fired away all their charges, they ruſhed forward on the Pruſſians with their bayonets; and all at once theſe brave troops, though encouraged by the preſence of their king, gave way and fled before an enemy already half defeated. The Ruſſian generals ought now to have attacked with their cavalry the diſordered infantry of their enemies, which would have completed the defeat, and in all probability given the finiſhing ſtroke to the king of Pruſſia's affairs. This opportunity, however, they loſt; but the king was not ſo negligent; for, by a very rapid and maſterly motion, he brought all the cavalry of his right wing to the centre, and falling on the Ruſſian foot uncovered by their horſe, and even diſordered by their own ſucceſs, they puſhed them back with moſt miſerable ſlaughter, at the ſame time that the repulſed battalions of infantry, returning to the charge, and exaſperated at their late diſgrace, rendered the victory no longer doubtful. The Ruſſians were now thrown into the moſt dreadful confuſion. The wind blew the duſt and ſmoke into their faces, ſo that they could not diſtinguiſh friends from foes; they fired on each other, plundered their own baggage which ſtood between the lines, and intoxicated themſelves with brandy; the ranks fell in upon one another; and, being thus crammed together into a narrow ſpace, the fire of the Pruſſians had a full and dreadful effect, while their enemies kept up only a ſcattered and ineffectual fire, generally quite over their heads. Yet even in this diſmal ſituation the Ruſſians did not fly; but ſuffered themſelves to be ſlaughtered till ſeven at night, when their generals having cauſed an attack to be made on the Pruſſian right wing, the attention of the enemy was drawn to that quarter, and they had time to retire a little from the field of battle to recover their order.

In this engagement, which was called the *battle of Zorndorf*, the Ruſſians loſt twenty-one thouſand five hundred and twenty-nine men, while that of the Pruſſians did not exceed two thouſand. A vaſt train of artillery was taken, together with the military cheſt, and many officers of high rank. The conſequence was, that the Ruſſian army retreated as far as Landſperg on the frontiers of Poland, and the king was left at liberty to march with his uſual expedition to the relief of Prince Henry of Saxony.

The prince was at this time ſorely preſſed by Marſhal Count Daun. As ſoon as the king had left Bohemia in the manner already related, M. Daun, conſidering that it would have been to no purpoſe to follow him, reſolved to turn his arms towards Saxony. Towards that country, therefore, he took his route through Luſatia, by Zittau, Gorlitz, and Bautzen. On the 3d of September he inveſted the ſtrong fortreſs of Sonneſtein; which unaccountably ſurrendered, after a ſingle day's reſiſtance, to one of his generals named Macquire. He then began to favour the operations of General Laudohn, who had advanced through the Lower Luſatia to the confines of Brandenburg; and, by drawing the attention of the Pruſſian forces which were left in Sileſia to the northward of that duchy, he facilitated the progreſs of the Generals Harſch and De Ville in the ſouthern parts. He then propoſed that Prince Henry ſhould be attacked by the army of the empire, while that of the Auſtrians ſhould paſs the Elbe, and, falling at the ſame time on the Pruſſians, ſecond the attack of the Imperialiſts, and cut off the retreat of their enemies from Dreſden. The ſudden appearance of the King of Pruſſia, however, put an end to this plan; General Laudohn abandoned all his conqueſts in Lower Luſatia, and retired towards M. Daun, while that general himſelf retired from the neighbourhood of Dreſden as far as Zittau. The army of the empire only kept its ground; poſſeſſing itſelf of the ſtrong poſt at Pirna, formerly mentioned, but did not undertake any thing. As for the Swedes, who had directed their motions by thoſe of the Ruſſians, they no ſooner heard of the victory of Zorndorff, than they retreated with much more expedition than they had advanced.

Thus the King of Pruſſia's affairs ſeemed to be pretty well retrieved, when by one fatal piece of negligence he was brought to the verge of ruin. M. Daun had poſſeſſed himſelf of an advantageous camp at Stolphen, by which he preſerved a communication with the army of the empire. On the other hand, the King of Pruſſia, having taken poſſeſſion of an important poſt at Bautzen, extended his right wing to the village of Hochkirchen, by which he preſerved a communication with his brother Prince Henry, protected Brandenburg, and was better ſituated than he could be any where elſe for throwing ſuccours into Sileſia. The two armies kept a watchful eye on the motions of each other; and as the principal aim of M. Daun was to cut off the king's communication with Sileſia, and of the king to cut off M. Daun's communication with Bohemia, a battle ſeemed inevitable, though great danger ſeemed to await that party who ſhould begin the attack.

In this critical poſture of affairs, the Auſtrian general formed a deſign of attacking the Pruſſian camp in the night. In what manner he came to ſurpriſe ſuch a vigilant enemy, has never been accounted for; but that ſuch a ſurpriſe was actually accompliſhed on the 14th of October, is certain. In the dead of the preceding night, the Auſtrian army began to march in three columns towards the camp of the King of Pruſſia: and though the night was exceedingly dark, and they had a conſiderable way to go, they all arrived at the ſame time, in ſafety, without being diſcovered, and without the leaſt confuſion; and at five in the morning began a regular and well-conducted attack. The Pruſſians were in a moment thrown into confuſion; Marſhal Keith, one of their beſt generals, received two muſket-balls, and fell dead on the ſpot. Prince Francis of Brunſwick had his head ſhot off by a cannon-ball as he was mounting his horſe; and every thing ſeemed to announce the total deſtruction of the army. Still, however, the king preſerved his wonderful preſence of mind, which indeed he never appears to have loſt on any occaſion. He ordered ſome detachments from his left to ſupport his right wing; but the moment that theſe orders were received, the left itſelf was furiouſly attacked. General Ketzow, who commanded in that quarter, repulſed the Auſtrians with difficulty, and was not able to afford any conſiderable aſſiſtance to the right; which alone was obliged to ſuſtain the weight of the grand attack. The Auſtrians, in the beginning of the engagement, had driven the Pruſſians out of the village of Hochkirchen; and as the fate of the day depended on the poſſeſſion of that poſt, the hotteſt diſpute was there. The Pruſſians made three bloody and unſucceſsful attacks on the village: on the fourth they carried it; but the Auſtrians, continually pouring in freſh troops, at laſt drove them out with prodigious ſlaughter on all ſides. The king then ordered a retreat, which was conducted in good order, without being purſued; however, this bloody action coſt him ſeven thouſand men, together with a great number of cannon. The Auſtrians computed their own loſs at five thouſand.

His Pruſſian majeſty, having thus happily eſcaped ſuch imminent danger, took every poſſible meaſure to prevent the enemy from gaining any conſiderable advantage from his defeat. Perceiving that the only advantage they wiſhed to derive from it was to cover the operations of their armies in Sileſia, and that he had now nothing to fear on the ſide of Saxony, he largely reinforced his own army from that of Prince Henry, and haſtened into Sileſia, in order to raiſe the ſiege of Neiſs, which had been completely inveſted on the 4th of October. On the 24th of that month, therefore, he quitted his camp, and, making a great compaſs, to avoid obſtructions from the enemy, arrived in the plains of Gorlitz. A body of the Auſtrians had in vain attempted to ſecure this poſt before him, and ſome who arrived after him were defeated with the loſs of eight hundred men. From this place the king purſued his march with the utmoſt diligence; but was followed by General Laudohn, at the head of twenty-four thouſand men, who conſtantly hung on his rear, and harraſſed his army. The king, however, knowing the importance of his expedition, continued his march without interruption, and ſuffered his antagoniſt to obtain many little advantages without moleſtation. Daun, however, not contented with the oppoſition given by Laudohn, ſent a large body of horſe and foot by another route to reinforce the Generals Karſch and De Ville, who had formed the ſiege of Neiſs and the blockade of Coſel, while he himſelf paſſed the Elbe, and advanced towards Dreſden.

All theſe precautions, however, were of little avail. The Generals Karſch and De Ville, notwithſtanding their reinforcement, no ſooner heard of the King of Pruſſia's approach, than they raiſed the ſiege of both places, and retired, leaving behind them a conſiderable quantity of military ſtores. The end of the Pruſſian monarch's march being thus accompliſhed, he inſtantly returned by the ſame way he came, and haſtened to the relief of Saxony, the capital of which (Dreſden) was in great danger from Marſhal Daun, The place was but indifferently fortified, and garriſoned only by twelve thouſand men; ſo that it could not promiſe to hold out long againſt a numerous and well-appointed army. It was beſides commanded by a large ſuburb, of which, if once the enemy got poſſeſſion, all defence of the city muſt then be vain. For this reaſon M. Schmettau, the Pruſſian governor, determined to ſet theſe ſuburbs on fire, which was actually done November 10th, with an incredible loſs to the inhabitants, as in the ſuburbs were carried on moſt of thoſe valuable manufactures which render the city of Dreſden remarkable. This diſappointed the deſigns of Count Daun; but, though the action was agreeable to the laws of war, and had been executed with all the caution and humanity of which ſuch an action was capable, yet the Auſtrians exclaimed againſt it as a piece of the moſt unprovoked and wanton cruelty recorded in hiſtory.

After the King of Pruſſia had approached Dreſden, all the Auſtrian armies retired into Bohemia, where they took up their winter quarters, as the King of Pruſſia did in Saxony.

In the early part of the campaign, Prince Ferdinand of Brunſwick had driven the French troops out of Hanover. The Duke of Richlieu had been recalled from that command which he had ſo groſsly abuſed, and the Count de Clermont was appointed by the court of Verſailles to that important truſt. In this campaign, the hereditary Prince of Brunſwick greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf under his uncle; he had not then reached his twentieth year. The firſt fruits of this young hero, were ſuch as would have done honour to the maturity of the moſt experienced ſoldier. Minden was reduced after a ſiege of only nine days, and defended by a garriſon of four thouſand men; and before the ſeaſon for action was well arrived, the whole French army had retreated acroſs the Rhine, except a body of troops that held poſſeſſion of Weſel. This reverſe of fortune was brought about, not by any deciſive battle loſt, nor by any conſiderable increaſe in the numbers of thoſe troops to which they were oppoſed, but proceeded from the little attention paid by the court of Verſailles to ſupplying the wants of the camp, and to the total want of diſcipline and ſubordination among the troops. Hence it was, that a formidable army, which about four months before had been the terror of an extenſive country, now retreated like fugitives, reduced to leſs than half their original number, and cloſely purſued by the very troops whom they had juſt before obliged to lay down their arms.

Some time after this Count Clermont reſigned; and whilſt M. de Contades, who was now placed at the head of the French army, was meditating an irruption into Heſſe, to ſecond the Prince de Soubiſe, who was already there, the Prince of Brunſwick gave a different direction to the operations of the campaign, by paſſing the Rhine with his whole army; ſoon after he attacked the enemy near Crevelt, on the 23d of June, and gained a victory which did the greateſt honour to his military capacity, and to the bravery of his troops. The hereditary prince was greatly inſtrumental to the glory of the day, by driving the French from a wood. Seven thouſand of the French were killed, wounded, or taken priſoners. A week after this action the prince repaſſed the Rhine and laid ſiege to Duſſeldorp, which ſurrendered on the 7th of July.

The Heſſian army, under Prince Yſenburg, conſiſted of ſeven thouſand men; theſe were attacked and defeated by the Duke de Broglio and Prince Soubiſe, on the 23d of July; but the ſucceſs which crowned a gallant attack made by Baron Imboff, on a large body of French troops, under M. de Chevert, on the 5th of Auguſt, prevented the fatal conſequences which would otherwiſe have followed. The Britiſh troops, which were then landed at Embden, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, were by this ſtroke enabled to join the main army without moleſtation. The uncommon reſolution which appeared in every action of the Hanoverian army, awed the French, who ſuffered greatly in their military reputation. Towards the cloſe of the campaign, another battle was fought in Heſſe, between fifteen thouſand Hanoverians and Heſſians, under Prince Yſenburg and General Oberg, and thirty thouſand French, commanded by Prince Soubiſe, at Lanwerenhagen, when the former were forced to retire; but, by the judicious diſpoſitions of Prince Ferdinand, no great advantages were reaped by the victors. During this campaign, the Britiſh troops had no occaſion in which to diſplay their bravery; but the death of their general, the Duke of Marlborough, who died at Munſter on the 20th of October of a fever, was a national loſs.

1758. The Britiſh cruiſers kept the ſea during all the ſeverity of winter, to protect the commerce of the kingdom, and annoy that of the enemy. They exerted themſelves with ſuch activity, and their vigilance was attended with ſuch ſucceſs, that a great number of prizes were taken, and the trade of France almoſt totally extinguiſhed. A very gallant exploit was atchieved by Captain Bray, commander of the Adventure, a ſmall armed veſſel: falling in with the Machault, a large privateer of Dunkirk, near Dungeneſs, he ran her a-board, faſtened her boltſprit to his capſtan, and, after a warm engagement, compelled her commander to ſubmit.—A French frigate of thirty-ſix guns was taken by Captain Parker, in a new fire-ſhip of inferior force. Divers privateers of the enemy were ſunk, burned, or taken, and a great number of merchant-ſhips fell into the hands of the Engliſh.

Nor was the ſucceſs of the Britiſh ſhips of war confined to the Engliſh channel. At this period the board of admiralty received information from Admiral Cotes, in Jamaica, of an action which happened off the iſland of Hiſpaniola, in the month of October of the preceding year, between three Engliſh ſhips of war and a French ſquadron. Captain Forreſt, an officer of diſtinguiſhed merit in the ſervice, had, in the ſhip of Auguſta, ſailed from Port Royal in Jamaica, accompanied by the Dreadnought and Edinburgh, under the command of the Captains Suckling and Langdon. He was ordered to cruiſe off Cape François, and this ſervice he literally performed in the face of the French ſquadron under Kerſin, lately arrived at that place from the coaſt of Africa. This commander, piqued at ſeeing himſelf thus inſulted by an inferior armament, reſolved to come forth and give them battle: and, that he might either take them, or at leaſt drive them out of the ſeas, ſo as to afford a free paſſage to a great number of merchant-ſhips then lying at the Cape, bound for Europe, he took every precaution which he thought neceſſary to inſure ſucceſs. He reinforced his ſquadron with ſome ſtore-ſhips, mounted with guns, and armed for the occaſion, and ſupplied the deficiency in his complements, by taking on-board ſeamen from the merchants' ſhips, and ſoldiers from the garriſon. Thus prepared, he weighed anchor, and ſtood out to ſea, having under his command four large ſhips of the line, and three ſtout frigates. They were no ſooner perceived advancing, than Captain Forreſt held a ſhort council with his two captains. "Gentlemen (ſaid he) you know our own ſtrength, and ſee that of the enemy; ſhall we give them battle?" They replying in the affirmative; he added, "Then fight them we will; there is no time to be loſt; return to your ſhips, and get them ready for engaging." After this laconic conſultation among theſe three gallant officers, they bore down upon the French ſquadron without further heſitation, and between three and four in the afternoon the action began with great impetuoſity. The enemy exerted themſelves with uncommon ſpirit, conſcious that their honour was peculiarly at ſtake, and that they fought in ſight, as it were, of their own coaſt, which was lined with people, expecting to ſee them return in triumph. But, notwithſtanding all their endeavours, their commodore, after having ſuſtained a ſevere engagement, that laſted two hours and a half, found his ſhip in ſuch a ſhattered condition, that he made ſignal for one of his frigates to come and tow him out of the line. His example was followed by the reſt of his ſquadron, which, by this aſſiſtance, with the favour of the land breeze and the approach of night, made ſhift to accompliſh their eſcape from the three Britiſh ſhips, which were too much diſabled in their maſts and rigging to proſecute their victory. One of the French ſquadron was rendered altogether unſerviceable for action: their loſs in men amounted to three hundred killed, and as many wounded; whereas that of the Engliſh did not much exceed one-third of this number. Nevertheleſs, they were ſo much damaged, that, being unable to keep the ſea, they returned to Jamaica, and the French commodore ſeized the opportunity of ſailing with a great convoy for Europe.

The courage of Captain Forreſt was not more conſpicuous in his engagement with the French ſquadron near Cape François, than his conduct and ſagacity in a ſubſequent adventure near Port-au-Prince, a French harbour, ſituated at the bottom of a bay on the weſtern part of Hiſpaniola, behind the ſmall iſland of Gonave. After M. de Kerſin had taken his departure from Cape François for Europe, Admiral Cotes, beating up to windward from Port Royal in Jamaica with three ſhips of the line, received intelligence that there was a French fleet at Port-au-Prince, ready to ſail on their return to Europe: Captain Forreſt then preſented the admiral with a plan for an attack on this place, and urged it earneſtly. This, however, was declined, and Forreſt directed to cruiſe off the iſland Gonave for two days only, the admiral enjoining him to return at the expiration of the time, and rejoin the ſquadron at Cape Nicolas. Captain Forreſt then proceeded up the bay, between the iſlands Gonave and Hiſpaniola, with a view to execute a plan which he had himſelf projected. Next day in the afternoon, though he perceived two ſloops, he forebore chaſing, that he might not riſque a diſcovery; for the ſame purpoſe he hoiſted Dutch colours, and diſguiſed his ſhip with tarpaulins. At five in the afternoon he diſcovered ſeven ſail of ſhips ſteering to the weſtward, and hauled from them, to avoid ſuſpicion; but at the approach of night gave chace with all the ſail he could carry. About ten he perceived two ſail, one of which fired a gun, and the other made the beſt of her way for Leogane, another harbour in the bay. At this period Captain Forreſt reckoned eight ſail to leeward, near another port called Petit Goave; coming up with the ſhip which had fired the gun, ſhe ſubmitted without oppoſition. He forthwith ſhifted the priſoners from this prize, and placed on-board of her five-and-thirty of his own crew, with orders to ſtand for Petit Goave, and intercept any of the fleet that might attempt to reach that harbour. Then he made ſail after the reſt, and in the dawn of the morning, finding himſelf in the middle of their fleet, he began to fire at them all in their turns, as he could bring his guns to bear; they returned the fire for ſome time; at length the Marguerite, the Solide, and the Theodore, ſtruck their colours. Theſe, being ſecured, were afterwards uſed in taking the Maurice, Le Grand, and La Flore; the Brilliant alſo ſubmitted, and the Mars made ſail, in hopes of eſcaping, but, the Auguſta coming up with her about noon, ſhe likewiſe fell into the hands of the victor. Thus, by a well-conducted ſtratagem, a whole fleet of nine ſail were taken by a ſingle ſhip, in the neighbourhood of four or five harbours, in any one of which they would have found immediate ſhelter and ſecurity. The prizes, which happened to be richly laden, were ſafely conveyed to

Jamaica,

Jamaica, and there ſold at public auction, for the benefit of the captors, who may ſafely challenge hiſtory to produce ſuch another inſtance of ſucceſs.

The miniſtry having determined to make vigorous efforts againſt the enemy in North America, Admiral Boſcawen was veſted with the command of the fleet deſtined for that ſervice, and ſailed from St. Helen's on the 19th of February, 1758; when the Invincible, of ſeventy-four guns, one of the beſt ſhips that conſtituted his ſquadron, ran aground, and periſhed; but her men, ſtores, and artillery, were ſaved. In the courſe of the ſucceeding month, Sir Edward Hawke ſteered into the Bay of Biſcay with another ſquadron, in order to intercept any ſupplies from France deſigned for Cape Breton or Canada. And about the ſame time, the town of Embden, belonging to his Pruſſian Majeſty, which had fallen into the hands of the enemy, was ſuddenly retrieved by the conduct of Commodore Holmes, ſtationed on that coaſt, who ſent up two of his ſmall ſhips to anchor in the river between Knok and the city. The garriſon, amounting to three thouſand ſeven hundred men, finding themſelves thus cut off from all communication with the country below, abandoned the place with great precipitation, and ſome of their baggage being ſent off by water, was taken by the boats which the commodore armed for that purpoſe.

In the ſame month the admiralty received advice of another advantage by ſea, which had been gained by Admiral Oſborne, while he cruiſed between Cape de Gatt and Carthagena, on the coaſt of Spain. On the 28th of March he fell in with a French ſquadron, commanded by the Marquis du Queſne, conſiſting of four ſhips, namely, the Foudroyant, of eighty guns, the Orphée, of ſixty-four, the Oriflamme, of fifty, and the Pleiade frigate, of twenty-four, in their paſſage from Toulon, to reinforce M. de la Clue, who had for ſome time been blocked up by Admiral Oſborne in the harbour of Carthagena. The enemy no ſooner perceived the Engliſh ſquadron, than they diſperſed, and ſteered different courſes: then Mr. Oſborne detached divers ſhips in purſuit of each, while he himſelf, with the body of his fleet, ſtood off for the bay of Carthagena, to watch the motions of the French ſquadron which lay there at anchor. About ſeven in the evening, the Orphée, having on-board five hundred men, ſtruck to Captain Storr, in the Revenge, who loſt the calf of one leg in the engagement, during which he was ſuſtained by the ſhips Berwick and Preſton. The Monmouth, of ſixty-four guns, commanded by Captain Gardener, engaged the Foudroyant, one of the largeſt ſhips in the French navy, and containing eight hundred men, under the direction of the Marquis du Queſne. The action was maintained with great fury on both ſides, and the gallant Captain Gardener loſt his life; nevertheleſs the fight was continued with unabating vigour by his lieutenant, Mr. Carkett; and the Foudroyant was diſabled in ſuch a manner, that her commander ſtruck, as ſoon as the other Engliſh ſhips, the Swiftſure and the Hampton Court, appeared. This mortifying ſtep, however, he did not take until he ſaw his ſhip lie like a wreck upon the water, and the decks covered with carnage. The Oriflamme was driven on ſhore under the caſtle of Aiglos, by the ſhips Montague and Monarque, who could not complete their deſtruction without violating the neutrality of Spain. As for the Pleiade frigate, ſhe made her eſcape by being a prime ſailer. This was a ſevere ſtroke upon the enemy, who not only loſt two of their capital ſhips, but ſaw them added to the navy of Great Britain; and the diſaſter was followed cloſe by another, which they could not help feeling with equal ſenſibility of mortification and chagrin.

In the beginning of April, Sir Edward Hawke, ſteering with his ſquadron into Baſque Road, on the coaſt of Poictou, diſcovered, off the iſle of Aix, a French fleet at anchor, conſiſting of five ſhips of the line, with ſix frigates, and forty tranſports, having on-board three thouſand troops, and a large quantity of ſtores and proviſions, intended as a ſupply for their ſettlements in North America. They no ſooner ſaw the Engliſh admiral advancing, than they began to ſlip their cables, and fly in the utmoſt confuſion. Some of them eſcaped by ſea, but a great number ran into ſhoal water, where they could not be purſued; and next morning they appeared aground, lying on their broadſides. Sir Edward Hawke, who had rode all night at anchor abreaſt of the iſle of Aix, furniſhed the ſhips Intrepid and Medway with truſty pilots, and ſent them farther in when the flood began to make, with orders to ſound ahead, that he might know whether there was any poſſibility of attacking the enemy; but the want of a ſufficient depth of water rendered the ſcheme impracticable. In the mean time, the French threw overboard their cannon, ſtores, and ballaſt; and boats and launches from Rochefort were employed in carrying out warps, to drag their ſhips through the ſoft mud, as ſoon as they ſhould be water-borne by the flowing tide. By theſe means their large ſhips of war, and many of their tranſports, eſcaped into the River Charente; but their loading was loſt, and the end of their equipment totally defeated.—Another convoy of merchant ſhips, under the protection of three frigates, Sir Edward Hawke, a few days before, had chaſed into the harbour of St. Martin's, in the iſle of Rhé, where they ſtill remained, waiting an opportunity for hazarding a ſecond departure: a third, conſiſting of twelve ſail, bound from Bourdeaux to Quebec, under convoy of a frigate and armed veſſel, was encountered at ſea by one Britiſh ſhip of the line and two fireſhips, which took the frigate and armed veſſel, and two of the convoy afterwards met with the ſame fate; but this advantage was overbalanced by the loſs of Captain James Hume, commander of the Pluto fireſhip, a brave accompliſhed officer, who, in an unequal combat with the enemy, refuſed to quit the deck even when he was diſabled, and fell, glorioully, covered with wounds, exhorting the people with his lateſt breath to continue the engagement while the ſhip could ſwim, and acquit themſelves with honour in the ſervice of their country.

On the 29th of May, the Raiſonable, a French ſhip of the line, having on-board ſix hundred and thirty men, commanded by the Prince de Mombazon, Chevalier de Rohan, was, in her paſſage from Port l'Orient to Breſt, attacked by Captain Dennis, in the Dorſetſhire, of ſeventy guns, and taken after an obſtinate engagement, in which one hundred and ſixty men of the prince's complement were killed or wounded, and he ſuſtained great damage in his hull, ſails, and rigging.

Theſe ſucceſſes were chequered by the tidings of a lamentable diſaſter that befel the ſhip Prince George, of eighty guns, commanded by Rear-admiral Broderick, in his paſſage to the Mediterranean. On the 13th of April, between one and two in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out in the fore part of the ſhip, and raged with ſuch fury, that, notwithſtanding all the efforts of the officers and men for ſeveral hours, the flames increaſed, and the ſhip being conſumed to the water's edge, the remnant ſunk about ſix o'clock in the evening. The horror and conſternation of ſuch a ſcene are not eaſily deſcribed. When all endeavours proved fruitleſs, and no hope of preſerving the ſhip remained, the barge was hoiſted out for the preſervation of the admiral, who entered it accordingly; but all diſtinction of perſons being now aboliſhed, the ſeamen ruſhed into it in ſuch crowds, that in a few moments it overſet. The admiral, foreſeeing that this would be the caſe, ſtripped off his clothes, and committing himſelf to the mercy of the waves, was ſaved by the boat of a merchant-ſhip, after he had ſuſtained himſelf in the ſea a full hour by ſwimming. Captain Payton, who was the ſecond in command, remained upon the quarter deck as long as it was poſſible to keep that ſtation, and then, deſcending by the ſtern ladder, had the good fortune to be taken into a boat belonging to the Alderney ſloop. The hull of the ſhip, maſts, and rigging, were now in a blaze, burſting tremendous in ſeveral parts through horrid clouds of ſmoak; nothing was heard but the cracking of the flames, mingled with the diſmal cries of terror and diſtraction; nothing was ſeen but acts of phrenzy and deſperation. The miſerable wretches, affrighted at the horrors of ſuch a conflagration, ſought a fate leſs dreadful, by plunging into the ſea! About three hundred men were preſerved by the boats belonging to ſome ſhips that accompanied the admiral in his voyage; but five hundred periſhed in the ocean.

The time was now arrived when the French were to be harraſſed in every quarter of the world. In Africa they had made themſelves maſters of the river Senegal, which is ſuppoſed to be a branch of the Niger. Here they had erected forts, and carried on a conſiderable trade in elephants teeth, gold duſt, gum arabic, and ambergris. A ſcheme had been propoſed to the board of trade for the reduction of theſe ſettlements in the year 1757, by a quaker named Cumming, who had viſited the coaſt of Africa for the purpoſe of trafficking with the natives, and had thereby gained a conſiderable inſight, both into the ſtrength of the French in that quarter, and the conſequence of the trade which they carried on, The projector, having procured the ſanction of the board of trade, early in the next ſpring obtained an appointment of ſhips and troops; having ſtrengthened his intereſt by that of Mr. Touchet, then a merchant of the firſt conſequence in the city. The force deſtined to perform this ſervice, conſiſted of the Naſſau of ſixty-four guns, the Harwich of fifty, the Rye of twenty-four, with the Swan ſloop and two buſſes, all under the command of Captain Marſh, having on-board two hundred marines under Major Maſon, and a detachment of matroſſes under Captain Walker. This ſquadron ſailed from Plymouth on the 9th of March. On the 24th of April it arrived off the river Senegal, when after ſounding the entrance, the ſmall veſſels and boats got over a dangerous bar, which runs along the mouth of the river. On the 29th the French with ſeven veſſels, three of which were armed with ten guns each, made a ſhow of attacking our ſmall craft, and kept a kind of running fire, but were ſoon repulſed and obliged to retreat. The marines and ſome ſeamen, amounting in the whole to near ſeven hundred men, then landed, bringing with them their whole artillery, conſiſting of ten pieces of cannon and eight mortars. In this debarkation ſome of the veſſels ran aground and immediately bulged, whereby much ammunition and many of the tents were loſt. This accident obliged a conſiderable part of this ſmall army, to lie on a ſandy ſhore, without any covering, expoſed to all the annoyance of that deſtructive climate. But theſe inconveniences did not long continue, for on the 30th a deputation was ſent from Fort Louis, the principal ſettlement, to treat of terms of ſurrender. Captain Marſh and Major Maſon agreed, that all the white people belonging to the French company at Senegal, ſhould be ſafely conducted to France in an Engliſh veſſel, without being deprived of their private effects, provided all the merchandize and uncoined treaſure ſhould be delivered up to the victors; and that all the forts, ſtore-houſes, veſſels, arms, proviſions, and every article belonging to the company in that river, ſhould be put into the hands of the Engliſh, immediately after the capitulation ſhould be ſigned. The free natives reſiding at Fort Louis were permitted to retain the undiſturbed poſſeſſion of their effects, and to enjoy the free exerciſe of their religion; and all negroes, mulattoes, and others, who could prove themſelves free, were to have it in their option either to remain in the place, or remove to any other part of the country. It was extremely fortunate for the aſſailants that the place thus ſurrendered without a ſtroke; had it made a reſolute defence, our men, for want of tents, muſt have ſuffered greatly, and it is more than probable that the enterprize muſt have been abandoned. Two hundred and thirty-two French officers and ſoldiers were made priſoners, ninety-two pieces of cannon were found in the fort, with treaſure, ſlaves, and merchandize, to a very conſiderable value. The corporation and burghers of the town of Senegal ſubmitted, and ſwore allegiance to his Britannic majeſty: the neighbouring princes, attended by numerous retinues, viſited the commanders, and concluded treaties with the Engliſh nation; the King of Portenderrick, or Legibelli, one of the moſt conſiderable of theſe, ſent an ambaſſador with preſents, compliments of congratulation, and aſſurances of friendſhip. The number of free independant negroes and mulattoes ſettled at Senegal amounted to three thouſand, and many of theſe enjoyed ſlaves and poſſeſſions of their own. The two French factories of Podore and Galam, the latter of which was ſituated ſix hundred miles farther up the river, were included in the capitulation; ſo that Great Britain, almoſt without ſtriking a blow, found herſelf poſſeſſed of a valuable commercial acquiſition. In recompence for this ſervice, Mr. Cummings received a handſome annuity from government during his life. The ſhips then proceeded to the iſland of Goree, ſituated about thirty leagues to the ſouthward of Senegal, which they attempted to reduce, but found their force unequal to the undertaking; however, very little loſs was ſuſtained by this abortive onſet.

Notwithſtanding the attempt made on the coaſt of

France during the preceding year, had proved ſo unaccountably frivolous, yet the advantages accruing from that deſultory mode of waging war, were deemed of ſuch conſequence, that it became a very important part of the operations of this campaign. In the month of May a very large fleet was prepared at Portſmouth. This force was divided: the principal part, conſiſting of ſeventeen ſail of men of war and five frigates, was put under the command of Lord Anſon and Sir Edward Hawke: the other compoſed of one line of battle ſhip, three ſhips of fifty guns, ſeven frigates, ſix ſloops, with fire-ſhips, bomb-ketches, cutters, tenders, and tranſports, was given to Commodore Howe; ſixteen regiments, nine troops of light horſe, and about two thouſand marines, embarked on-board the latter fleet, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, who afterwards, this ſame year, went to command in Germany, and died there, as already rather prematurely related in p. 158. On this expedition Lieutenant-general Lord George Sackville, brother to the Duke of Dorſet, went ſecond in command. The two fleets ſailed on the 1ſt of June, directing their courſe towards the coaſt of Bretagne. Lord Anſon's fleet ſoon bore away for the weſtward, whilſt Commodore Howe ſtruck directly acroſs the channel.

They had ſcarce loſt ſight of the Engliſh coaſt, before the weather became very tempeſtuous, and a little before midnight the commodore made a ſignal for the fleet to lie to, leſt it ſhould run too cloſe in with the French ſhore before break of day. It continued to blow a ſtiff gale all night, and one of the tranſports, with part of the train of artillery on-board, had the misfortune to roll away her main and mizen maſts, and was taken in tow by one of the frigates, and in that manner proceeded with the fleet.

They did not make ſail again till ſix the next morning, and about eight ſaw Cape la Hogue, a point of land famous in the naval hiſtory of Great Britain. As

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ſoon as they diſcovered the cape, they directed their courſe between the continent and the iſland of Alderney; but on account of the ſtrong tide then againſt them, they did not reach the iſland till the evening, when the whole fleet came to an anchor in the channel between the iſland and the continent, called the Race, from the prodigious rapidity of the current; which was at this time ſo great, that ſeveral of the ſhips were driven from their anchors; and many of thoſe that rode it out, when they came to weigh their anchors, left a fluke in the ground, occaſioned by the rocky bottom. Commodore Howe was the firſt Engliſhman who was bold enough to ſail with a fleet of ſhips through this dangerous paſs.

At break of day the whole fleet got under ſail; but, a calm enſuing, their motion was very little except that produced by the current. About noon, one of the tranſports, having part of the guards on-board, ſtruck on a ſunken rock; and the water ruſhed in with ſuch violence, that notwithſtanding the aſſiſtance of all the boats in the fleet, they had but juſt time to take out the men and baggage before the veſſel went to the bottom. This accident occaſioned the fleet to come to an anchor, but about eight in the evening they were again under ſail. They now ſteered directly for the bay of St. Malo, and on the 4th, about five in the afternoon, being entirely becalmed, they came to an anchor within three leagues of the place.

This town had been before ſingled out for attack by the Engliſh at different times, and our readers will doubtleſs remember the memorable bombardment which it ſuſtained in the reign of King William III. of which we gave a particular account in our third volume, p. 399; but great additions had been made to the fortifications ſince that time. Walls immenſely thick ſurrounded it; theſe are ſo high that the ſcaling ladders on-board the fleet were not long enough to reach the top. It was defended towards the ſea by two ſtrong batteries, and the place is farther ſecured by the narrow entrance of the channel. It was therefore reſolved to make no attempt upon the town, but to land the troops in its neighbourhood; accordingly the next morning they weighed it before it was day, and ſtood along the coaſt, till they opened the bay of Cancalle, ſo called from a village of the ſame name at the bottom of it, ſituated about two leagues to the eaſtward of St. Malo. About eight in the morning, the commodore made a ſignal for the ſhips with the grenadiers on-board, to make ſail; and about four in the afternoon the whole fleet came to an anchor, except three or four frigates, which continued their courſe towards a battery that might impede their landing. The commodore had on this occaſion quitted the Eſſex, and hoiſted his pendant on-board one of the frigates, as he was able to lie much cloſer to the ſhore in her than in his own ſhip. Ten companies of grenadiers, under the command of General Moſtyn, were now in the flat-bottomed boats, waiting for the ſignal to put off. The battery on ſhore fired at the frigates as they advanced, but was ſoon ſilenced, and the grenadiers landed juſt before ſun-ſet, without any other oppoſition than a few ſhot, fired from behind a wind-mill, by ſome peaſants, who inſtantly fled at the approach of a ſerjeant and twelve men; as ſeven companies of foot and three troops of dragoons had done before, on perceiving our grenadiers begin to move towards the ſhore.

As ſoon as the grenadiers were drawn up upon the beach, Lord Downe, at the head of twenty men, marched through a very narrow paſs, up to the village of Cancalle, where they were met by the Marquis of Landal, intendant of the coaſt, and colonel of the militia, attendant with one ſervant. Lord Downe called to him and told him, that if he would ſurrender he had nothing to fear; but he fooliſhly refuſed quarter, and was, together with his ſervant and two horſes, ſhot dead on the ſpot. After taking poſſeſſion of this village and ſecuring ſuch peaſants as endeavoured to oppoſe the landing, they lay on their arms all night. Three regiments more were landed in the evening, but continued all night on the beach.

The next-day, being the 6th, the diſembarkation was entirely finiſhed, and the whole army encamped. The head-quarters were at Cancalle; and the grenadiers and light horſe were advanced about a mile in the front of the line.

The Duke of Marlborough then publiſhed a manifeſto, which was diſtributed among the inhabitants. In it, he aſſured them that the deſcent upon their coaſt was not with any hoſtile intent againſt the open country, and that only ſuch as ſhould be found in arms, or otherwiſe oppoſing the operations of the Britiſh troops, ſhould be conſidered as enemies. He promiſed ſecuriy to all ſuch as ſhould continue in their habitations, and follow their uſual employments. That nothing ſhould be required of them but what was abſolutely neceſſary for the ſubſiſtance of the army, and that all the proviſions they might bring in ſhould be paid for with ready money. He concluded this notice with declaring, that if, notwithſtanding theſe aſſurances of protection, they ſhould carry off their effects and proviſions, and abandon their dwellings, he would treat them as enemies, and deſtroy their houſes with fire and ſword.

At the ſame time he wrote a letter to the magiſtrates of St. Malo, informing them, that as all the inhabitants of the towns and villages between Dinant, Riennes, and Doll, had deſerted their habitations, probably to avoid the payment of the uſual contributions; therefore, unleſs they immediately ſent back ſuch inhabitants to their reſpective houſes, and appeared themſelves at his head-quarters, to ſettle the contributions required, he ſhould think himſelf obliged to proceed to military execution. Theſe threats, however, were not put in force, although the magiſtrates of St. Malo did not think proper to comply with the requiſitions.

The day following, (the 7th,) as ſoon as it was light, the whole army, except the third brigade, ſtruck their tents, and began to march in two columns. The firſt, conſiſting of the brigade of guards, two battalions of grenadiers, and the firſt brigade, commanded by Lieutenant-general Lord George Sackville, marched from the left till they fell into the great road leading to St. Malo. The ſecond column, conſiſting of the ſecond and fourth brigades, commanded by the Earl of Ancram, another lieutenant-general, marched alſo from the left through a country wholly encloſed, and a road remarkably narrow; ſo that, notwithſtanding the labour of two hundred pioneers, who marched at the head of this column, the men were frequently obliged to march in ſingle files, and the fields on each ſide the road, that they could ſeldom ſee above forty yards clear of their flanks. They found the villages, through which they paſſed, entirely deſerted by their inhabitants, and the houſes ſtripped of every thing they could poſſibly carry away.

The third brigade continued encamped at Cancalle, with orders to throw up an intrenchment to ſecure a retreat; and, if neceſſary, to eſcort the heavy artillery, which was not yet landed.

The guards were ordered to file off about two miles to the left of the firſt encampment, and there to pitch their tents. This was undoubtedly a poſt of conſequence, and therefore a poſt of honour, as it covered the army on that quarter, from whence there was moſt reaſon to expect an enemy.

They continued to advance without beat of drum, in as good order as the nature of the country would permit; but, though the march was not above ſix miles, it was late in the evening before they reached their ground. The commanders in chief then reconnoitred the ſituation of St. Malo, and ordered the ground to be marked out at the diſtance of ſomething more than a mile from the town. In the front was a village called Paramé, where the head-quarters were fixed, and on the right flank another village called St. Servan. The grenadiers were advanced above an hundred paces, the light horſe and artillery about the ſame diſtance in the rear, and the reſt of the troops extended in one direct line.

While the main body were pitching their tents, the light horſe, ſuſtained by the piquets, were ordered to advance towards the walls of St. Malo, when they were immediately ſaluted by the enemy's cannon from the ramparts, but without any further loſs than a horſe or two. As the troops had advanced, the people in general left their habitations and ran up into the country; upon which the Duke of Malborough ſent a troop of horſe to fetch them back, promiſing that they ſhould be ſafe both in their perſons and effects, and be punctually paid for whatever they ſhould furniſh our forces. In this march, the horſe perceived a large baſon behind the town, in which all the ſhipping belonging to the port was collected, and hid from the ſight of our fleet by a prodigious ſtore-houſe, built in the form of a rotunda, near the rope-walk. Information of this diſcovery being given to the Duke of Marlborough, he ſent all the horſe, with a foot-ſoldier mounted behind each of the horſemen, with hand-grenadiers, matches, &c. who under cover of the night marched under their cannon to the harbour, where they found a large fleet conſiſting of men of war, privateers, and merchantmen, to which they applied their combuſtibles, and then proceeded to communicate the flames to the magazines of pitch, tar, ropes, &c. all which, in the ſpace of a few hours, became a grand yet dreadful ſcene of conflagration. The ſhips were all a-ground, ſo that not one of then could be moved;

by which means two men of war, one of fifty, the other of thirty guns, thirty-three privateers from thirty to eighteen guns each, and above ſeventy ſail of merchant ſhips, together with a prodigious quantity of naval ſtores, were conſumed.

About eleven at night, the general, expecting a ſally from the town, ordered the ſecond brigade to march to ſupport the piquet; but the whole buſineſs was performed without the leaſt attempt from the enemy, though it was known that a conſiderable body of troops had that day thrown themſelves into the town from the other ſide of the river.

The ſhipping continued to burn during the whole night, and the next day foraging parties were ſent out, the army having landed with only two days proviſions. Whatever proviſions and neceſſaries the peaſantry had brought into the camp, were regularly paid for; but, as the general panic which had ſeized them rendered them very backward in bringing their cattle to ſuch a market, it became neceſſary to make uſe of compulſive means, to the great loſs of the unhappy owners.

While the army continued encamped near St. Malo, one of the battalions of guards marched, under the command of Colonel Cæſar, twelve miles up the country, to a town called Doll, where they were politely entertained by the magiſtrates. And, as their deſign was only to reconnoitre, they continued one night in the town without committing the leaſt act of hoſtility, and then returned. Part of the light horſe, advancing ſtill farther, fell in with the videts of a French camp, two of whom, after a long chaſe, they took, and brought priſoners to camp.

The Duke of Marlborough, being informed that the enemy were buſily employed in aſſembling forces to attack them, collected the troops in Cancalle; where Mr. Howe had made ſuch a maſterly diſpoſition of the boats and tranſports, that the re-embarkation of the troops was performed with ſurpriſing eaſe and expedition. On muſtering the army it appeared that about thirty men were wanting; on the return of the ſhips ſome of theſe were brought off in French boats and exchanged for an equal number of priſoners.

The troops being reimbarked, the whole fleet ſailed from Cancalle-bay on the 6th, at ſix in the morning, and continued to bear to windward till evening, when they came to an anchor of St. Malo; and it blew ſo freſh the whole night, that ſome of the fleet drove, and others parted from their anchors. The next morning they were obliged, by contrary winds, to return again to Cancalle-bay, where they once more anchored. Whilſt they were detained here, an attack upon Granville was meditated: this place had been reconnoitred by ſome of the engineers, but in conſequence of their report the ſcheme was laid aſide.

The weather continued very foul till the 21ſt, when the fleet and tranſports ſailed about eight in the morning, ſtanding to the weſtward to avoid the inconveniences and danger of that rocky coaſt. The 25th they made the Iſle of Wight; and the wind coming to the northward the next day, they ſteered again for the French coaſt, and ran in near Havre-de-Grace, where the flat-bottomed boats were hoiſted out, and every thing prepared for a ſecond deſcent; but, the wind blowing violently towards the evening, the boats were re-ſhipped, and the fleet obliged to quit the land, in order to avoid the dangers of a lee-ſhore.

As ſoon as the tempeſtuous weather ſubſided, the ſhips returned to the ſame ſtation. The Duke of Marlborough and Commodore Howe went out in a cutter to reconnoitre; at the ſame time orders were iſſued for the troops to be provided with four days proviſions to take aſhore; but on the 29th the fleet bore away before the wind for Cherbourg, and came to an anchor about two miles from the town. Some of the tranſports which lay neareſt in ſhore, were fired at from ſeveral different batteries, but without effect. A conſiderable body of troops were ſeen drawn up along the ſtrand, among which ſome appeared to be regulars. Notwithſtanding this ſtate of defence, it was reſolved to attack the forts Querqueville, O'Hommet, and Gallet, in the night, and this ſervice was allotted to the firſt regiment of guards; but, the evening proving tempeſtuous, it was found abſolutely neceſſary to lay aſide the attempt, and the next morning the ſhips ſtood out to ſea; and, proceeding directly for England, anchored the following evening at St. Helens.

The troops, from having been on-board the tranſports for ſo conſiderable a time, had become ſickly; they were therefore landed on the Iſle of Wight, and ſome were draughted off to reinforce the army in Germany. The Generals Marlborough and Sackville being ordered on the ſame ſervice; the chief command of the land-forces to be employed in the next conjunct expedition was given to Lieutenant-general Bligh. On the 24th of July his Royal Highneſs Prince Edward (who was afterwards created Duke of York) embarked on-board the commodore's ſhip the Eſſex, as a volunteer.

The fleet again ſet ſail on the 1ſt of Auguſt, and after being buffetted by contrary winds, anchored before Cherbourg on the 7th. The recent appearance of ſuch a force had awakened the attention of the enemy to ſtrengthen the place; they had therefore thrown up an intrenchment from the fort de Ecœudeville, ſituated about two miles to the weſtward of Cherbourg, along the coaſt, for the ſpace of four miles, and fortified it with ſeveral batteries at proper diſtances. Behind this intrenchment a body of horſe and infantry appeared, in red and blue uniforms; but, as they did not advance to the open beach, the landing of the Britiſh troops was not rendered dangerous.

At firſt a bomb-ketch was ſent to anchor near the town, and throw a few ſhells into the place, as a feint to amuſe the enemy, and deceive them with regard to the place where the Engliſh intended to land; the general having determined to diſembark about a league to the weſtward of Querqueville, the weſtermoſt fort in the bay. The other bomb-ketches being poſted along ſhore, conſiderably galled the troops in the intrenchments, by not only throwing ſhells in the uſual manner, but alſo by loading their mortars with great quantities of balls, which may be thrown to a great diſtance, and, by ſcattering as they fly, ſpread dreadful deſtruction around them. While theſe ketches kept up an inceſſant fire on the trenches, the grenadiers and guards were towed regularly aſhore in the flat-bottomed boats, and landing without oppoſition, formed immediately on a ſmall open portion of the beach, having a natural breaſt-work in their front, and on the other ſide a hollow way, and a village riſing beyond it with a ſudden aſcent. On the left the ground was interſected with edges, and laid out in orchards; and from this quarter the enemy advanced in order. The Britiſh troops, as ſoon as they perceived the enemy marching towards them, quitted the breaſt-work in order to meet them, and a ſtraggling fire began; but the French, edging to the left, took poſſeſſion of the hill, from whence they exchanged a few random ſhot with the advanced poſts of the Engliſh.

In the mean time the reſt of the infantry were diſembarked, and the enemy retired during the night. But as the light horſe were not yet landed, General Bligh encamped that night at the village of Erville, on a piece of ground that did not extend above four hundred paces, ſo that the tents were pitched in a crouded and irregular manner. Next morning the general having received intelligence that no parties of the enemy were ſeen, either on the hill or in the plain, and that fort Querqueville was intirely abandoned, made a diſpoſition for marching in two columns to Cherbourg. An advanced party took poſſeſſion of fort Querqueville, and the lines and batteries along the ſhore, which were now alſo deſerted by the enemy. Thus they had taken great pains to throw up an intrenchment, which they wanted courage to make the leaſt ſhow of defending.

The Britiſh forces directed their march to Cherbourg, which they found likewiſe abandoned by the enemy; and, the gates being open, entered it without oppoſition: and the inhabitants, encouraged by a manifeſto, containing a promiſe of protection, received their new gueſts with a good grace. But it was impoſſible to prevent many diſorders being committed, and theſe were greatly increaſed by the army not being regularly encamped and ſuperintended, ſo that the ſoldiers were left too much at liberty to indulge themſelves in riot and licentiouſneſs during the firſt night of their arrival. The next morning the place being reconnoitred, a reſolution was formed to deſtroy with the utmoſt expedition all the forts, as well as the baſon, peers and harbour. Large ſums had been expended in conſtructing theſe works, which had formerly been a favourite object with the court of France; but, as they were left unfiniſhed, it is probable that their utility began to be called in queſtion. Whilſt the engineers, aſſiſted by the officers of the fleet and artillery, were employed in demoliſhing the noble deſign which the great Vauban had at firſt planned, the Britiſh light horſe penetrated into the country, and proceeded even to Walloign, about four leagues from Cherbourg, where a body of French troops lay encamped; but though they were continually receiving freſh ſupplies, they did not think proper to make any nearer approaches, and ſuffered the invaders to complete their deſign without interruption. Twenty-one pieces of braſs cannon and two large mortars were carried on-board the ſhips; and, after a contribution of about three thouſand pounds ſterling had been exacted from the town, the troops re-embarked on the 16th of Auguſt, without any annoyance from the enemy, although their numbers had by this time become formidable.

By thus invading and quitting the towns of France at pleaſure, the naval ſuperiority of Great Britain was fully demonſtrated. By thus inſulting France in her own domains, that nation loſt much of its conſequence in the eſtimation of the other powers of Europe, and the government of France became contemptible even to the French themſelves. The cannon taken in this expedition, together with the flags, ſtandards, and other trophies, were expoſed to public view in Hyde-park, from whence they were drawn with every circumſtance of parade to the Tower.

In two days after the return of the fleet, it again ſailed to the coaſt of France, the miniſtry being determined to give the enemy no intervals of repoſe. General Bligh, who by his inſtructions was left at liberty to act in the manner which he ſaw beſt for the ſervice, determined to land on the coaſt of Bretagne; accordingly on the 4th of September, the fleet having come to an anchor in the bay of St. Lunaire, two leagues to the weſtward of St. Malo, the troops were there landed. A detachment of grenadiers was immediately ſent to the harbour of St. Briac, above the town of St. Malo, where they deſtroyed twenty ſmall veſſels, and ſome batteries upon the coaſt. The privateers from St. Malo had greatly annoyed the commerce of Great Britain, and at this time there were a conſiderable number in the harbour with their prizes: but as this place had been thought inacceſſible by a coup de main, when a larger body of troops was employed under the Duke of Marlborough, it could have nothing to fear from the preſent viſit. By this time a fatal ſecurity had thrown the Engliſh off their guard. General

Bligh finding that the ſtrength and ſituation of St. Malo bid defiance to any attempt which he could make againſt it, and being ſenſible that the deſtruction of a few ſmall craft was a ſervice very inadequate to the force under his command, determined to penetrate into the country, and thereby to render his deſcent terrible at leaſt. The bay of St. Lunaire being thought an unſafe harbour for the fleet, it proceeded farther weſtward, and anchored in St. Cas bay. On the 8th of September the troops began to march for St. Guildo, and croſſed the river Drouette with ſome difficulty at low water. The next morning he proceeded to the village of Matignon, where after ſome ſmart ſkirmiſhing, the French piquets appeared, drawn up in order, to the amount of two battalions; but they were diſperſed on the diſcharge of ſome field-pieces. General Bligh continuing his route through the village, encamped in the open ground about three miles from the bay of St. Cas. Intelligence was now received that the Duke d'Aiguillon, commandant of the province of Bretagne, had advanced from Breſt to Lambale, within ſix miles of the Britiſh camp, with twelve battalions and ſix ſquadrons of regular troops, and two regiments of militia, having with them ten pieces of cannon and eight mortars. The near approach of the enemy cauſed no alteration in the manner of embarking the troops; they continued encamped all night, during which time the whole army, which did not exceed ſix thouſand men, might have been ſafely conveyed on-board the tranſports. But ſo ſilent a departure was conſidered as tarniſhing that reputation which their bold marches through the enemy's country had acquired. Having hitherto met with no oppoſition, they ſeemed to ſet it at defiance; the drums throughout the camp were beaten at two o'clock in the morning, which was anſwered by the French; and although the troops were in motion before three o'clock, and had only a league to march, yet ſuch was the fatal dilatorineſs of their proceedings that they did not reach the beach of St. Cas till nine. At that time the embarkation began, and the enemy, which had only ſlightly ſkirmiſhed during the march, now diſcovered themſelves in full force, and took poſſeſſion of a windmill, where they opened a battery, and brought all their cannon and mortars to bear; which did great execution on the beach. They then began to march down, being covered in ſome meaſure by a hollow-way on their left, and attempted to gain a wood, where they might form and extend themſelves along the front of the Engliſh, and advance againſt them behind a range of ſand-hills which extended along the ſhore. In their progreſs they were much annoyed by the cannon and mortars which were diſcharged from the ſhips, and did great execution. The greateſt part of the Britiſh troops were by this time embarked; the rear-guard, conſiſting of all the grenadiers and one-half of the firſt regiment of guards, amounting in the whole to about one thouſand five hundred men, remained on ſhore, when the Fre[illegible]uddenly ruſhed out to the attack. Major-ge[illegible]. Dury, who commanded this diviſion, ſeeing them approach, formed his men, and marched them from behind a bank to attack the enemy before they could be formed on the plain. The deſign was not injudicious; but, whether the men had conceived a diſlike to their commander, or that the full force of their aſſailants, which now firſt appeared in ſight, damped the ardour of their ſpirits, the conflict was not ſuſtained with that determined bravery which is the characteriſtic of Britiſh infantry. As ſoon as they began to give way, the French bore down upon them with fixed bayonets. A terrible ſlaughter followed. General Dury being ſhot in the breaſt, a grenadier having helped him off with his cloaths, he plunged into the water, and was never ſeen afterwards. Sir John Armitage, a young gentleman of large fortune, who ſerved as a volunteer, was killed. Many ſwam towards the boats and veſſels which were ordered out to their aſſiſtance, but the French battery played ſo directly upon them, that great reluctance was ſhewn in putting out the boats, until the commodore, with a magnanimity that ever diſtinguiſhed him, went into one of them, and by making himſelf conſpicuous to the whole fleet, excited a general emulation, who ſhould moſt aſſiſt their unfortunate comrades. A ſmall body of the Britiſh troops retired in good order to a rock, from whence they bravely defended themſelves until their ammunition was expended, when they ſurrendered at diſcretion. About one thouſand of the beſt troops of Great Britain were either killed or made priſoners on this diſaſtrous day. The loſs ſuſtained by the French was not inconſiderable, for the frigates and bomb-ketches raked them much with their cannon and mortars.

When the action was ended, the Duke d'Aiguillon, with great civility, ſent the Engliſh commanders an account of the priſoners which had been made, among whom were four ſea-captains: this information was accompanied with aſſurances, that the wounded ſhould receive all poſſible comfort and aſſiſtance. The fleet then ſailed for the coaſt of England, and arrived at Spithead on the 18th of September. Such was the unfavourable concluſion of the expeditions to the coaſt of France in the year 1758.

Whatever our ſucceſſes were on the coaſt of France, (for upon the whole, thoſe deſcents muſt be called ſucceſsful,) they did not affect us in the ſame manner with thoſe which we had in America. From that part of the world we had long been ſtrangers to any thing, but delays, misfortunes, diſappointments, and diſgraces. The ſailing of the fleet under the command of Admiral Boſcawen, has been already taken notice of. He carried out with him forty-one men of war, and one hundred and ten tranſports.

Major general Amherſt commanded the land-forces, which amounted to about fourteen thouſand men, including ſome light troops, fitted out for the peculiar ſervice of the country. The fleet arrived at Halifax in Nova Scotia on the 9th of May, ſailed from thence on the 28th of the ſame month, and on the 2d of June, appeared before Louiſbourg. For ſix days they remained on the coaſt without being able to effect a landing, owing to the prodigious ſurf which ſwelled all along the ſhore, ſo that no boat could poſſibly live near it. The French, not truſting to this obſtacle, had drawn intrenchments in every part where it might be poſſible to land, ſupported them with batteries in convenient places, and lined them with a numerous infantry. At length (June 8th) the ſurf, though violent at beſt, was obſerved to be ſomewhat abated, and the admiral and general did not loſe a moment to avail themſelves of this firſt opportunity of landing: they made all their diſpoſitions for it with the higheſt judgment. The frigates were ordered to rake the enemy on the right and left, whilſt the troops were diſpoſed for landing in three diviſions. That on the left was commanded by Brigadier-general Wolfe, and was deſtined to the real attack. The diviſions in the centre and to the right, were meant only as feints to draw the enemies attention to all parts, and to diſtract their defence.

When the fire of the frigates had continued about a quarter of an hour, General Wolfe's diviſion moved towards the land. The French reſerved their ſhot until the boats drew near the ſhore, and then poured upon them the whole fire of their cannon and muſketry. Many of the boats overſet, others were broken to pieces, the men jumped into the water, and made for ſhore, but ſeveral were killed, and others drowned; the ſurf being almoſt as great an annoyance as the fire from the beach. However, no ways diſcouraged, the example, ſpirit, and conduct, of their truly gallant commander inſpiring them, the detachment gained the land, and immediately forming, took poſt, and fell upon the enemy with ſuch order and intrepidity as ſoon obliged them to fly in confuſion. The landing being thus effected, the centre diviſion of the army moved forward, and was followed by the third diviſion on the right; ſo that in the courſe of that day, the whole Britiſh army made good their landing with inconſiderable loſs.

The interval of calm weather, which had befriended the operation thus far, was of very ſhort continuance; it was ſucceeded by tempeſts, which continued ſeveral days, and cauſed a prodigious ſurf, which rendered it impoſſible to land the artillery and ammunition neceſſary to begin the ſiege. But the excellent conduct of the Generals Amherſt and Wolfe, by degrees, overcame all the difficulties of the weather, which was extremely unfavourable, as well as thoſe of the ground, which was rugged in ſome places and boggy in others. At the ſame time the garriſon defended the place with great reſolution. Nor were the French deſtitute of means of defence, for in the harbour they had five men of war of the line, each of which could bring a broadſide to bear upon the Engliſh troops as they advanced. It was therefore neceſſary to ſecure a point, called the light-houſe battery, which in ſome meaſure commanded the harbour. Wolfe led on his men to this ſervice with equal ſpirit and ſucceſs. The poſſeſſion of this ſpot greatly accelerated the reduction of the place; for on the 25th of June the iſland battery, which had been a great annoyance to the beſiegers, was effectually ſilenced. Still however, the advances were very gradual, for the ſhips in the harbour ſtill continued to fire with effect. Fortunately on the 21ſt of July, one of the ſhips blew up, and ſpread its flames to the two next adjoining, whereby they were preſently conſumed to the water-edge. This was a deciſive advantage gained. The approaches were now brought near the covered way, and it was expected that a lodgment would be made in it; the fire from the beſieged grew leſs. By this time the fortifications had ſuffered great injury, and a conſiderable part of the town was reduced to aſhes; nevertheleſs no overtures for a capitulation were made. This reſolute defence gave birth to one brave action more, in addition to the many which had been diſplayed during the courſe of the ſiege.

The admiral, who had all along done every thing poſſible to ſecond the efforts of the land-forces, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the weather, reſolved on a ſtroke, which by being deciſive of the poſſeſſion of the harbour, might make the reduction of the town a matter of little difficulty. He reſolved to ſend in a detachment of ſix hundred ſeamen, in boats, to take or burn the two ſhips of the line which remained; and upon the ſucceſs of this attempt, he propoſed to ſend in ſome of his great ſhips, which would batter the town on the ſide of the harbour. Captain Laforey was entruſted with this bold and important enterprize, which he executed with great firmneſs and ſucceſs; for proceeding amidſt the fire of the enemy, he boarded and made himſelf maſter of both the men of war, the Prudent of ſeventy-four guns, and Bienfaiſant of ſixty-four. The latter of theſe he towed off, and the former, as ſhe ran aground, was ſet on fire.

This ſtroke, in ſupport of the ſpirited advances of the land-forces, was concluſive. The town ſurrendered the next day. The garriſon became priſoners of war, and amounted, with the irregulars and ſeamen, to five thouſand ſix hundred and thirty-ſeven. The French ſhips deſtroyed in the harbour, beſides the two already named were, Entreprenant ſeventy-four guns, Capricieux ſixty-four, Celebre ſixty-four, Apollo fifty, Chevre, Biche, and Fidelle, frigates; the three laſt were ſunk at the harbour's mouth. Two frigates were alſo taken, the Diana of thirty-ſix guns, and Echo of twenty-ſix.

Some ſhips with a body of troops on-board, were diſpatched immediately on this ſucceſs, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Lord Rollo, to take poſſeſſion of the iſland of St. John, which lies farther up the gulph of St. Laurence than Cape Breton, and is twenty-two leagues long, and not much above a league at its greateſt breadth; it bends in the form of a creſcent, both ends terminating in a ſharp point. By the fertility of this ſpot in corn and cattle, it was enabled to ſupply Quebec with ſtore of proviſions. It was likewiſe the aſylum to which the French neutrals of Annapolis had fled, when it was found expedient to expel them from the diſtricts of Nova Scotia. From this iſland, the French, aided by the neighbouring Indians, made frequent irruptions into the Britiſh territories, and committed cruel outrages on the inhabitants. No ſooner did Lord Rollo appear, than the iſland ſubmitted. On taking poſſeſſion of the governor's quarters, ſeveral Engliſh ſcalps were found, which the Indians, in the French intereſt, had brought in, encouraged thereto by a reward, which was paid for every one of theſe ſavage war-trophies. This, however, was a moſt inhuman method of making war, which for a civilized nation to encourage, and even to give rewards for the perpetrating ſuch deeds, reflects great diſhonour on all concerned. About ten thouſand head of black cattle were found on the iſland, and a large ſupply of corn.

A conſiderable ſquadron being left at Halifax in Nova Scotia, the Admirals Boſcawen and Hardy, with four ſhips of the line, returned to England; and arrived at Spithead in the beginning of November. Juſt as they were entering the channel, they deſcried ſix large French ſhips, which they chaſed, but were unable to overtake or come near to, ſo that no engagement enſued.

The colours which were taken at Louiſbourg, were brought to the palace at Kenſington, where his majeſty reſided, from whence they were conveyed to the cathedral church of St. Paul, with great military pomp, and there placed in the weſtern iſle, as laſting trophies of this memorable event.

The poſſeſſion of Cape Breton greatly facilitated the farther operations of the war in North America, which, until that event took place, had been carried on in a manner that foreboded no ſucceſsful termination. General Abercrombie was commander in chief of the Britiſh forces in North America in 1758. Soon after the ſiege of Louiſbourg was commenced, he embarked upon Lake George, with near ſixteen thouſand troops, regulars and provincials, carrying with him a formidable artillery, which force was deſtined to attack Ticonderoga and Crown Point. In a ſkirmiſh with the advanced guards of the French army, the Britiſh troops ſuſtained an irreparable loſs in the death of the gallant Lord Howe, who was killed by a muſket-ball. No man like him had entered into the true ſpirit of conducting a war, amidſt thoſe immenſe wilds; he had trained all under his command to a mode of fighting dictated by the nature of the country which was the theatre of their operations. Every thing was to be expected from a man, whoſe force of genius had led him to make eſtabliſhed military principles give place to change of circumſtances; who was fearleſsly brave, and idolized by his ſoldiers, whom he had enured to diſcipline by his authority, but more perſuaſively by his example.

Nothing could be more injudiciouſly begun, or more ſhamefully concluded, than the attack upon Ticonderoga. Near two thouſand men were ſacrificed in this prepoſterous buſineſs, and the deſign was precipitately and diſgracefully abandoned before the proſpect of ſucceeding had been properly aſcertained. The ſpirit and bravery of an American officer, retrieved, in ſome meaſure, the diſgrace incurred by a conduct ſo compounded of raſhneſs and puſilanimity.

Colonel Bradſtreet, with about three thouſand provincials, ſet out immediately after the failure of the attempt upon Ticonderoga, to attack Fort Frontenac, a ſtrong hold poſſeſſed by the French, on that part of Lake Ontario which communicates with the river St. Laurence. He found the place but weakly defended, and the garriſon repoſing in ſecurity, no ways apprehenſive of an aſſault. The fort was taken and demoliſhed, and the detachment rejoined the main army without the loſs of a ſingle man. Towards the cloſe of the campaign, Fort du Queſne, which in fact had given riſe to the war, was ſubdued by General Forbes, from whom it received the name of Pittſburgh. Such was the poſture of affairs in North America at the cloſe of the year 1758.

The conqueſt of the French ſettlements at the mouth of the Senegal river, was conſidered as an incomplete triumph in that quarter of the world, whilſt that kingdom ſtill retained the iſland of Goree: an expedition was therefore ſet on foot towards the cloſe of the year, for the purpoſe of reducing that iſland. The Honourable Commodore Keppel was appointed to the command of the ſquadron, which conſiſted of four ſhips of the line, a fifty-gun ſhip, two frigates, two bomb-ketches, and ſeveral tranſports, having onboard part of Forbes's and another regiment, amounting to about ſeven hundred regulars, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Worge, which embarked at Kinſale, from whence the fleet ſailed on the 12th of November, and after a tedious and tempeſtuous voyage, arrived at their deſtination on the 28th of December following.

Goree is ſituated in the 14th deg. 30 min. north latitude, and in 17 deg. 20 min. weſt longitude from London. It is called by the natives *Barſaguiche*, but the Dutch, who were the firſt Europeans that took poſſeſſion of it, gave it the name of Goree, from an iſland and town of the ſame name in Holland. It is no more than eight hundred and forty yards in length, and two hundred and forty-eight in breadth; its whole circumference, including a point at the eaſtern end of the iſland, being, according to a late menſuration, about two Engliſh miles. It ſtands to the ſouth-weſt of Cape Verde, within cannon-ſhot of the ſhore. A range of ſurrounding rocks render it almoſt inacceſſible, except at two particular bays. On the ſummit of a rocky hill ſtands St. Michael's fort, the fortifications of which the French conſidered as impregnable; other forts and batteries were likewiſe erected along the ſhore. The iſland was ceded to the Dutch in the year 1617, by the king of that part of the adjacent continent, who claimed it as a part of his territory. In 1663, the Dutch were diſpoſſeſſed by the Engliſh, who after holding it for two years, were in their turn vanquiſhed by De Ruyter. In 1677, a French ſquadron, commanded by the Count d'Eſtrees, reduced the place, and from that time the iſland continued an appendage to the crown of France.

When Commodore Kepple arrived before the iſland, he reſolved to attack it on the weſt ſide, that being to leeward; ſo that ſhould any of the ſhip's cables chance to be cut by a chain-ſhot, or any other accident, the ſhip would drive to ſea without danger, and by beating to windward, might be again brought into action; but, had the ſquadron anchored on the eaſtern ſide, any ſuch accident would occaſion the ſhips to drive aſhore.

The Prince Edward, and the Firedrake bomb, bore down and began the action. At the ſecond ſhot, which was fired from the batteries on ſhore, the enſign-ſtaff of the Prince Edward was carried away, and a cheſt of arms was blown up, which killed one of the marines. This ſucceſsful beginning occaſioned the beſieged to redouble their fire, which was dreadfully pointed at this frigate, whilſt the Firedrake, by overcharging her mortars, threw all her ſhells on the other ſide of the iſland. The commodore, ſeeing this, directed the Furnace bomb to begin the attack, with attention to avoid this error. The whole ſquadron preſently brought their guns to bear, and the commodore, in the Torbay, brought up his ſhip with ſuch judgment abreaſt of the angles of two forts, that no gun from any part of the fortifications could be brought to bear upon him, whilſt he poured forth ſuch a fire as preſently drove the French from their guns. A concourſe of the natives was aſſembled on the ſhore of the continent, to behold the engagement, aſtoniſhed to ſee ſhips bear down boldly againſt ſtone walls, and ſtand the brunt of the fire from the batteries. The next day, the governor, M. St. Jean, was obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion, and the Britiſh flag was hoiſted on Fort St. Michael. About one hundred men were either killed or wounded on-board the ſhips. Two trading veſſels, which were at anchor in the road, fell into the hands of the victors; and the ſtores, money, and merchandize, found on the iſland, were valued at about twenty thouſand pounds. Ninety-three iron cannon, and one braſs twelve-pounder, were found here, beſides ſwivels and mortars; the garriſon conſiſted of three hundred men, who were ſent priſoners to France, beſides blacks in arms.

The commodore, after leaving a garriſon at Goree, proceeded to the river Senegal, and augmented the garriſon, which had been before left at Fort Louis, with ſome freſh men; after which he ſet ſail for England, but in his progreſs thither, was attacked with ſuch violent tempeſts as diſperſed his ſhips, and threatened the deſtruction of the whole ſquadron. Indeed the outſet of the expedition had proved fatal to one of the fleet; the Litchfield, a fifty-gun ſhip, commanded by Captain Barton, with three hundred and fifty men on-board, was, on the 29th of November, wrecked on the coaſt of Morocco, at a place called Veadore, about nine leagues to the northward of Saffi.

One hundred and thirty men, in which number ſeveral officers were included, periſhed in their attempt to reach the ſhore; the greater part of the crew however, got ſafe to land, and with theſe the captain, but all the proviſions and every thing on-board the ſhip were totally loſt, except what the violence of the ſurf occaſionally threw on ſhore, by which means ſome drowned ſheep and hogs were procured, and ſerved to ſupply the want of more wholeſome food. The natives were little inclined to commiſerate their ſituation; they were even conſigned over to a ſtate of ſlavery, until the Britiſh conſul at Fez procured their enlargement, notwithſtanding a treaty of peace between Great Britain and that ſtate was then in full force.

Vice-admiral Cotes commanded in the Weſt-Indies, on the Jamaica ſtation; early in the year he fell in with a fleet of ſhips, bound from St. Domingo to France, nine of which he captured off St. Nicholas. Captain Tyrrel in the Buckingham, was extremely vigilant in protecting the trade at Antigua. This officer in company with the Cambridge, another ſhip of the line, attacked and levelled with the ground a ſmall fort in Grand Ance bay, on the iſland of Martinico, deſtroyed three privateers, and took a fourth, which they converted into a tender. When the fort was demoliſhed, a village, ſituated cloſe by it, was a ſtrong temptation to men fluſhed with victory to attack, and they ſolicited warmly for leave to plunder it; but their brave commander replied; "Gentlemen, it is beneath us to render a number of poor people miſerable, by deſtroying their habitations and little conveniences of life; brave Engliſhmen ſcorn to diſtreſs even their enemies, when not in arms againſt them." This prevailed, and ſaved the lives and properties of the innocent villagers.

In the month of November, the gallant Tyrrel was ordered by Commodore Moore, to cruiſe in the Buckingham to windward of Martinico. Between the iſlands of Montſerrat and Guadaloupe, he fell in with the Weazel ſloop, commanded by Captain Boles, and directly after deſcried a fleet of nineteen ſail, under convoy of a French ſeventy-four gun ſhip, which proved to be the Floriſſant, and two large frigates. Captain Tyrrel immediately gave chace with all the ſail he could carry; and the Weazel, running cloſe to the enemy, received a whole broadſide from the large ſhip, but without ſuſtaining much damage. Captain Tyrrel hereupon gave orders to Mr. Boles her commander, to keep aloof, as his ſmall ſhip was incapable of withſtanding ſuch heavy metal. The Floriſſant, not caring to truſt to her ſuperiority over the Buckingham, bore away, firing all the time her ſtern-chaſe guns, while the two frigates raked their enemy fore and aſt. Tyrrel, however, ſteadily kept on his courſe, and at length came alongſide of the Frenchman, within piſtol-ſhot, in which ſituation he poured in his firſt broadſide, which did terrible execution. The captain of the Floriſſant was not wanting in returning the ſalute, ſo that a furious conflict enſued. Captain Tyrrel, being wounded in the face, and having three fingers of his right hand ſhot away, was obliged to entruſt the defence of his ſhip to Mr. Marſhal, his firſt lieutenant, who continued the battle with great gallantry until he loſt his life: the charge then devolved on the ſecond lieutenant, who acquitted himſelf with equal honour, and ſuſtained a deſperate fight againſt the three ſhips of the enemy. The officers and crew of the Buckingham exerted themſelves with a calm and determined valour; and Captain Troy, who commanded a detachment of marines on the poop, plied his ſmall arms ſo effectually as to drive the French from their quarters. At length the French were unable to withſtand the ſkill and bravery of their aſſailants; confuſion, terror, and uproar, prevailed among them. The firing from the Floriſſant ceaſed, and about twilight her colours were hauled down. The Buckingham was too much damaged in her rigging to take immediate poſſeſſion of her well-earned prize, which the French captain perceiving, ſet all his ſails, and under favour of the night eſcaped with the two frigates. This circumſtance alone prevented a Britiſh ſhip of ſixty-five guns (five having been diſabled ſome months before), with only four hundred and ſeventy-two men, from taking a French ſhip of the line, mounted with ſeventy-four pieces of cannon, provided with ſeven hundred men, and aſſiſted by two large frigates, one of thirty-eight guns and three hundred and fifty men, the other twenty-eight guns and two hundred and fifty men. The loſs of the Buckingham in this ſignal action, was only nine men killed and thirty-one wounded. On-board the Floriſſant, one hundred and eighty men were ſaid to have been killed and three hundred wounded. She was ſo diſabled in her hull that ſhe could hardly be kept afloat until ſhe reached Martinico; and the largeſt frigate, together with the loſs of forty men, received ſuch damage, as to be for ſome time quite unſerviceable. Captain Tyrrel in his letter to Commodore Moore, charged the French with having fired ſquare bits of iron, ruſty nails, and ſuch deſtructive materials as a generous enemy would have diſdained to make uſe of.

The brave Tyrrel, coming to England ſoon after, was introduced to the king by Lord Anſon, who received him with particular marks of favour, and in a few months that heroic officer was appointed to the command of the Foudroyant. The cruiſers, during the year 1758, continued their activity, and a great number of prizes were taken from the enemy. Captain Hervey, in the Monmouth, deſtroyed a French man of war of forty guns, at the iſland of Malta, of which the Malteſe loudly complained, as a violation of the neutrality ſubſiſting between their ſtate and Great Britain. About twenty ſail of ſmall French veſſels were drived aſhore on the rocks of Bretagne, by ſome of the cruiſers belonging to Lord Anſon's fleet, after a ſmart engagement with two frigates under whoſe convoy they ſailed. In the month of November, the Belliqueux, a French ſhip of war, carrying ſixty-four guns, miſtaking her courſe run up Briſtol channel, and came to an anchor in Lundy road. Advice of this circumſtance being carried to Captain Saumarez, commander of the Antelope, then lying in King's road, he immediately got under ſail, and though the wind was contrary, and blew hard, yet he beat down the channel, and ſaw her at anchor below Ilfracombe. Upon diſcovering the Antelope, ſhe weighed and ſtood towards her, and on coming near her hoiſted French colours, and ſeemed prepared to engage, but preſently hawled them down again. As ſoon as the Antelope came within gun-ſhot, ſhe fired at the French ſhip; which ſhe not returning, Captain Saumarez ſent his boat with his firſt lieutenant to know if they had ſurrendered; but finding the boat did not return, he bore down under her ſtern, and aſked if they had ſtruck, and was anſwered, they had; and thus without firing a ſingle gun, they ſurrendered to a ſhip of inferior force, both as to number of men and weight of metal.

In the Eaſt-Indies the tranſactions of the war were chequered with a variety of ſucceſs; but, on the whole, the deſigns of the enemy were entirely defeated. The French commander, M. de Buſſy, had, in the year 1756, quarrelled with Salabatzing, viceroy of Decan, becauſe this laſt would not put him in poſſeſſion of the fortreſs of Golconda. In the courſe of the next year, while the Engliſh forces were employed in Bengal, M. de Buſſy made himſelf maſter of the Britiſh factories of Ingeram, Bandermalanka, and Vizagapatam, and the reduction of this laſt left the enemy in poſſeſſion of the whole coaſt of Coromandel, from Ganjam Maſſulapatam. While a body of the Engliſh company's forces, under Captain Caillaud, endeavoured to reduce the important fortreſs and town of Madura, the French, under M. D'Anteuil, inveſted Trichinopoly. Caillaud no ſooner received intelligence of the danger to which this place was expoſed, than he haſtened to its relief, and obliged the enemy to abandon the ſiege. Then he returned to Madura, and, after an unſucceſsful aſſault, made himſelf maſter of it by capitulation. During theſe tranſactions, Colonel Forde made an attempt upon the fort of Nelloure, a ſtrong place, at the diſtance of twenty four miles from Madras, but miſcarried; and this was alſo the fate of an expedition againſt Wandewaſh, undertaken by Colonel Alderton. The firſt was repulſed, in ſtorming the place; the other was anticipated by the French army, which marched from Pondicherry to the relief of the garriſon.

The French king had ſent a conſiderable reinforcement to the Eaſt-Indies, under the command of General Lally, an officer of Iriſh extraction, together with ſuch a number of ſhips as rendered the ſquadron of M. d'Apché ſuperior to that of Admiral Pocock, who had ſucceeded Admiral Watſon, lately deceaſed, in the command of the Engliſh ſquadron ſtationed on the coaſt of Coromandel, which, in the beginning of this year, was reinforced from England with ſeveral ſhips under the direction of Commodore Stevens. Immediately after this junction, which was effected in the road of Madras on the 24th of March, Admiral Pocock, who had already ſignalized himſelf by his courage, vigilance, and conduct, ſailed to windward, with a view to intercept the French ſquadron, of which he had received intelligence. In two days he deſcried in the road of Fort St. David the enemy's fleet, conſiſting of nine ſhips, which immediately ſtood out to ſea, and formed the line of battle ahead. The admiral took the ſame precaution, and bearing down upon M. d'Apché, the engagement began about three in the afternoon. The French commodore, having ſuſtained a warm action for about two hours, bore away with his whole fleet, and being joined by two ſhips, formed a line of battle again to leeward. Admiral Pocock's own ſhip, and ſome others, being greatly damaged in their maſts and rigging, two of his captains having miſbehaved in the action, and night coming on, he did not think it adviſeable to purſue them with all the ſail he could carry; but, nevertheleſs, he followed them at a proper diſtance, ſtanding to the ſouth-weſt, in order to maintain the weather-gage, in caſe he ſhould be able to renew the action in the morning. In this expectation, however, he was diſappointed; the enemy ſhewed no lights, nor made any ſignals that could be obſerved; and in the morning not the leaſt veſtige of them appeared. Mr. Pocock, on the ſuppoſition that they had weathered them in the night, endeavoured to work up after him to windward; but finding he loſt ground conſiderably, he dropped anchor about three leagues to the northward of Madras, and received intelligence from the chief of that ſettlement, that one of the largeſt French ſhips, having been diſabled in the engagement, was run aſhore to the ſouthward of Alemparve, where their whole ſquadron lay at anchor. Such was the iſſue of the firſt action between the Engliſh and French ſquadrons in the Eaſt-Indies, which, over and above the loſs of a capital ſhip, is ſaid to have coſt the enemy about five hundred men, whereas the Britiſh admiral did not loſe one fifth part of that number. Being diſſatisfied with the behaviour of three captains, he, on his return to Madras, appointed a court-martial to enquire into their conduct; two were diſmiſſed from the ſervice, and the third was ſentenced to loſe one year's rank as a poſt-captain.

In the mean time Mr. Lally had diſembarked his troops at Pondicherry, and taking the field, immediately inveſted the fort of St. David, while the ſquadron blocked it up by ſea. Two Engliſh ſhips being at anchor in the road when the enemy arrived, their captains ſeeing no poſſibility of eſcaping, ran them on ſhore, ſet them on fire, and retired with their men into the fortreſs, which, however, was in a few days ſurrendered. A much more reſolute defence was expected from the courage and conduct of Major Polier, who commanded the garriſon. When he arrived at Madras, he was ſubjected to a court of enquiry, which acquitted him of cowardice, but were of opinion that the place might have held out much longer, and that the terms on which it ſurrendered were ſhameful, as the enemy were not even maſters of the outward covered way, as they had made no breach, and had a wet ditch to fill up and paſs, before the town could have been properly aſſaulted. Polier, in order to wipe off this diſgrace, deſired to ſerve as a volunteer, with Colonel Draper, and was mortally wounded in a ſally at the ſiege of Madras.

Admiral Pocock having, to the beſt of his power, repaired his ſhattered ſhips, ſet ſail again on the 10th of May, in order to attempt the relief of Fort St. David's; but, notwithſtanding his utmoſt endeavours, he could not reach it in time to be of any ſervice. On the 30th of the month he came in ſight of Pondicherry, from whence the French ſquadron ſtood away early next morning, nor was it in his power to come up with them, though he made all poſſible efforts for that purpoſe. Then, receiving intelligence that fort St. David's was ſurrendered to the enemy, he returned again to Madras, in order to refreſh his ſquadron. On the 25th of July, he ſailed a third time in queſt of M. d'Apché, and in two days perceived his ſquadron, conſiſting of eight ſhips of the line and a frigate, at anchor in the road of Pondicherry. They no ſooner deſcried him advancing, than they ſtood out to ſea as before, and he continued to chaſe, in hopes of bringing them to an engagement: but all his endeavours proved fruitleſs till the 3th of Auguſt, when, having obtained the weather-gage, he bore down upon them in order of battle. The engagement began with great impetuoſity on both ſides; but in little more than ten minutes M. d'Apché ſet his fore ſail, and bore away, his whole ſquadron following his example, and maintaining a running fight in a very irregular line: The Britiſh admiral then hoiſted the ſignal for a general chaſe, which the enemy perceiving thought proper to cut away their boats, and crowd with all the ſail they could carry. They eſcaped, by favour of the night, into the road of Pondicherry, and Mr. Pocock anchored with his ſquadron off Carical, a French ſettlement, having thus obtained an undiſputed victory, with the loſs of thirty men killed, and one hundred and ſixteen wounded, including Commodore Stevens and Captain Martin, though their wounds were not dangerous. The number of killed and wounded on-board the French ſquadron amounted according to report, to five hundred and forty; and their fleet was ſo much damaged, that in the beginning of September their commodore ſailed for the iſland of Bourbon, in the ſame latitude with Madagaſcar, in order to refit; thus leaving the command and ſovereignty of the Indian ſeas to the Engliſh admiral, whoſe fleet, from the beginning of this campaign, had been much inferior to the French ſquadron in number of ſhips and men, as well as in weight of metal.

Mr. Lally having reduced Cuddalore and Fort St. David's, reſolved to extort a ſum of money from the King of Tanjour, on pretence that, in the laſt war, he had granted an obligation to the French governor for a certain ſum, which had never been paid. Lally accordingly marched with a body of three thouſand men into the dominions of Tanjour, and demanded ſeventy-two lacks of rupees. This extravagant demand being rejected, he plundered Nagare, a trading town on the ſea-coaſt, and afterwards inveſted the capital: but after he had proſecuted the ſiege until a breach was made, his proviſions and ammunition beginning to fail, ſeveral vigorous ſallies being made by the forces of the King of Tanjour, and the place well defended by European gunners, ſent from the Engliſh garriſon at Trichinopoly, he found himſelf obliged to raiſe the ſiege, and retreat with precipitation, leaving his cannon behind. He arrived at Carical about the middle of Auguſt, and from thence retired to Pondicherry towards the end of September.

On the 18th of October, a veſſel arrived from Europe at Pondicherry with one hundred thouſand rupees, which enabled Lally to begin his operations, although deprived of aid from a fleet. By this time the general, by his diſſatisfactions and turbulent paſſions, had rendered himſelf extremely unpopular both to the officers and inhabitants of Pondicherry; with theſe bad humours predominating, the army ſet forward to beſiege Madras. Mr. Pigot was governor of this ſettlement; Colonel Draper and Major Brereton commanded the troops. While the town was defended with great ſpirit within, ſallies were continually made, and detached parties to beſet the roads through which the enemy's convoys were to paſs, that they were obliged greatly to weaken the army employed in the trenches, in order to make head againſt theſe aſſailants. In one of the rencounters which happened between theſe detachments, the Count d'Eſtaing was taken priſoner, in conſequence of his own miſtake. Being on horſe-back, he came galloping down to the rear of the Engliſh grenadiers, whom, being ſhort-ſighted, or perhaps not ſeeing at all through the ſmoke, he took for French troops. He did not perceive his miſtake until within a few yards, when his horſe ſtumbling, threw him, and before he could recover himſelf, he was ſeized by two drummers, who had their ſwords drawn to ſtab him, when an Engliſh officer, who ſaw the tranſaction, interpoſed and reſcued him, and, as ſoon as his rank was known, cauſed him to be ſent away with an officer and file of men to the fort.

D'Eſtaing had been extremely aſſiduous in the ſiege of Fort St. David, and poſſeſſed all the qualities of an active partizan.

In February 1759, after a ſiege of more than two months, the French were obliged to abandon their enterprize againſt Madras, and thereby renounce for ever all their ſanguine hopes, built on the ſtrength which they poſſeſſed in that part of the world. On the 16th of April, the Engliſh army took the field under Major Brereton, and poſſeſſed themſelves of the important town and fort of Conjiveram. About the ſame time, the city of Maſulipatam was ſtormed and taken by Major Forde. By theſe ſtrokes the French trade on the coaſt of Coromandel, was confined to Pondicherry, and a few inconſiderable places; and the traffic of the whole ſhore, for an extent of eight hundred miles of a populous and manufacturing country, was entirely in the hands of the Engliſh company.

Encouraged by theſe ſucceſſes, a body of about one thouſand two hundred men, Europeans and ſepoys, under the command of Major Brereton, advanced farther, and attempted to diſlodge an army of French and Indians, encamped under the cannon of a fort of that country conſtruction. The acquiſition of that place had been a valuable advantage; but here our army was obliged to retire, with a loſs of between three and and four hundred killed and wounded.

General Lally, animated with this and ſome ſlighter advantages, threatened the ſiege of Trichinopoly, and the French affairs ſeemed again to revive. But it was only a momemtary gleam. To check his progreſs, Colonel Coote, at the head of the greateſt body he could draw together on that coaſt, inveſted Wandewaſh, took the place in three days, and made the garriſon priſoners of war. From thence he paſſed with rapidity to Carongoly; the ſiege of which town he preſſed with ſuch diligence, that, in four days from the opening his batteries, he obliged the garriſon to march out.

This progreſs alarmed General Lally; he called large detachments in from every ſide; and, knowing the importance of Wandewaſh, made all his efforts to recover it. He puſhed forward the ſiege with the utmoſt vigour, hoping to take the town before Coote could arrive to its relief. But the colonel marched with equal diligence; and arrived about the time when the French had made a practicable breach. His army conſiſted of one thouſand ſeven hundred Europeans, and between nine and ten thouſand blacks. The engagement was long and obſtinate; but at length the French gave way. It was a total rout; they abandoned their camp, their cannon, and all the implements of the ſiege. They left a thouſand killed and wounded on the field of battle. Lally fled with his broken troops in deſpair to Pondicherry. Of the Engliſh in this action near two hundred were killed and wounded; in particular the death of the gallant Major Brereton was much regretted. Of the blacks, about ſeventy were wounded and ſlain.

Except the battle of Plaiſſy, followed by the revolution in Bengal, this action was the moſt conſiderable in its conſequences, of any in which our troops had ever been engaged in India. The victory was purſued with a ſpirit equal to that by which it was won. Chittiput was taken in a few days after; and the army, allowing itſelf no repoſe, marched directly from thence to Arcot, the capital of this immenſe province. The ſiege was opened on the 5th of February, and the fort ſurrendered on the 10th: near three hundred Europeans were made priſoners of war.

Whilſt theſe events took place on the eaſtern coaſt of the great peninſula of India, on the weſtern the Engliſh poſſeſſed themſelves of the populous and opulent city of Surat from the powers of the country, with very little loſs.

Vice-admiral Pocock, waiting for the return of the French fleet, continued with his own to windward of Pondicherry; but being informed by a Daniſh ſhip, that twelve ſail of French ſhips were in Ceylon, the whole ſquadron weighed on the 30th of June, and ſoon after came to the mouth of the harbour of Trincanomaly in that iſland; but, inſtead of meeting with the French fleet there, five company's ſhips from England joined him, having proviſions and ſtores for his fleet, which yielded him a ſeaſonable ſupply.

Monſieur d'Apché, on his arrival at the iſle of France, found three men of war, under the command of M. d'Aguille; but a ſcarcity of proviſions in that ſettlement retarded the ſailing of the fleet.

On the 30th of Auguſt, 1759, the two fleets came in ſight of each other near the iſland of Ceylon; but the currents, ſqualls of wind, fogs, and other impediments, kept them aſunder until the 10th of September, when they again fell in with each other, off Fort St. David. The French being fartheſt out at ſea, lay to in a line of battle ahead, with their heads to the eaſt: the Engliſh having the wind, came down abreaſt, and at two in the afternoon were within gun-ſhot, when each ſhip edged to get into the ſtation along-ſide of its allotted antagoniſt.

The Engliſh fleet conſiſted of nine ſhips of the line, attended by the Queenſborough frigate, two of the company's ſhips, and the Protector, converted into a fire-ſhip. The French were eleven ſail of the line, of which four were of the navy of France, and they had three frigates under their lee. The Engliſh were prevented from forming their line with as much regularity as the enemy, who were waiting for them, drawn up in order of battle.

The French line was led by the Actif, of ſixty four guns, one of the king's ſhips; ſhe was followed by the Minotaur, another of the king's ſhips, of ſeventy-four guns, on-board of which M. d'Aguille bore the flag of rear-admiral; three of the company's ſhips, Duc d'Orleans ſixty, St. Louis fifty-ſix, Vengeur ſixty-four, came next: theſe five formed the van. M. d'Apché, in the Zodiac, hoiſted his flag in the centre, ſupported by the Comte de Province of ſeventy-four guns; the four others of the rear diviſion were the Duc de Bourgogne fifty-ſix, Illuſtre ſixty four, Fortunée ſixty-four, and the Centaur ſixty-eight; of which only the Illuſtre was a king's ſhip.

The Elizabeth, of ſeventy-guns, led the Engliſh line; followed by the Newcaſtle ſeventy, Tiger ſixty-ſix, and the Grafton ſeventy-four, in which laſt was Rear-admiral Stevens: theſe four were the van. Vice-admiral Pocock, in the Yarmouth ſeventy-four, was in the centre; followed by the Cumberland of ſixty-ſix guns, the Saliſbury fifty-ſix, the Sunderland ſixty; and the Weymouth, of ſixty, cloſed the rear. The total battery of the French ſquadron exceeded the Engliſh by one hundred and twenty-ſix guns, and conſequently by ſixty-three in action.

The Grafton was the firſt ſhip up, and, whilſt preſenting her broadſide, fell abreaſt of the Zodiac, whom Mr. Pocock, as in the two engagements of the laſt year, intended to reſerve for himſelf. M. d'Apché immediately threw out the ſignal of battle, and began to fire on the Grafton at a quarter paſt two o'clock; but Admiral Stevens waited for the ſignal of his ſuperior officer, which appeared five minutes after, when the Yarmouth was very near, and ranged againſt the Comte de Provence. The firing then became general through both lines, but the Sunderland, the laſt but one of the Engliſh line, ſailing very ill, kept back the Weymouth behind her. By this miſchance the Saliſbury, which was much the weakeſt ſhip, being only fifty guns, and they only eighteen and nine-pounders, ranged unſupported againſt the Fortunée, behind which, at leaſt, the Sunderland ſhould have taken her up. In this ſtate of the action the conſequence was equal to the diſparity, and in fifteen minutes the fall of the Saliſbury's main top-gallant, and then her top-ſail, obliged her to quit the line: but by this time the Sunderland ſhooting ahead, engaged the Illuſtre. The three ſhips of the Engliſh van ahead of the Grafton, had luckily fallen ſoon, and in good order, into their ſtations; and in leſs than a quarter of an hour the Actif, which was oppoſed to the Elizabeth, took fire, which brought the crew from the batteries; and the Elizabeth, taking advantage of their confuſion, plied her exceſſively, and ſoon drove her out of the line to extinguiſh the fire: the Elizabeth, ſtill edging upon her, was ſtopped by the Minotaur ſtarting forward, which obliged her to haul her wind again; and this operation ſhot her beyond the line of action. The Newcaſtle then took up the Minotaur, although a ſixty to a ſeventy-four; and the Tyger, the captain of which had been blamed in a former engagement, ſupported the Newcaſtle, by taking on herſelf the fire of the two next ſhips. The fight between theſe five continued with the utmoſt violence for ſeventy minutes, when neither the Newcaſtle nor Tyger had a ſail under command; on which Rear-admiral Stevens, who had left the Zodiac to the Yarmouth, and had beaten the Vengeur out of the line, came between, and ſeeing the two ſhips of the French line, next beyond the Vengeur, much crippled, ſet forward to engage the Minotaur; and her broadſide, as ſhe was paſſing on, drove the St. Louis out of the line. In the rear, the Sunderland, which had taken up the Illuſtre, was likewiſe attacked by her follower the Fortunée, and before ſhe had fired three rounds her main-top ſail fell, and her head-braces being likewiſe ſhot away, her fore-top-ſail ſwung aback, which made her fall aſtern of both her antagoniſts. At ten minutes paſt three, the Comte de Provence, which had ſtood the Yarmouth, and was afterwards taken up by the Cumberland, likewiſe left the line to refit her rigging;

ging; as did the Duc de Bourgogne, which had divided her fire between the Cumberland and the Saliſbury, and received theirs, divided likewiſe, in return.

The Weymouth, by what accident we do not find, was kept aſtern in the rear; but at three o'clock the Saliſbury came again into the engagement; and on the French ſide the Illuſtre, ſeeing the two ſhips before her gone, cloſed up to the Zodiac. At four o'clock the only ſhips engaged were, the Minotaur and Duc d'Orleans againſt the Grafton, the Zodiac againſt the Yarmouth, the Illuſtre againſt the Cumberland, and the Fortunée and Centaur againſt the Saliſbury and Sunderland. The pilot of the Zodiac, ſeeing, as he thought, the Fortunée and Centaur going off likewiſe, put the helm a-lee without order; and, as M. d'Apché was running to correct him, a grape-ſhot carried off the fleſh of his thigh to the bone: he fell ſenſeleſs among four or five who were killed or ſtruck down with him. The captain of the Zodiac had been killed an hour before, and the officer who took the command after the admiral fell, wore the ſhip to rejoin the comrades which had already left the line. The Centaur, Illuſtre, and Minotaur, thinking ſuch was the will of their admiral, wore likewiſe, and ſet ſail to accompany him. The Engliſh ſhips, ſtill in action, endeavoured to follow them, but were ſoon left out of gun-ſhot; and all firing ceaſed at ten minutes paſt four o'clock.

In this engagement the rear diviſion ſuffered much leſs than the van. On-board the Weymouth, which cloſed the rear, not a man was either killed or wounded; and in the Sutherland ahead of her, the whole loſs was only two men killed; nevertheleſs the Centaur, the laſt of the enemy's rear, ſuffered as much in her maſts and rigging from their fire as any of the other ſhips of the French line, who were cloſe engaged; and her captain, Sourville the elder, was killed. In the Newcaſtle, Captain Michie an officer of diſtinguiſhed gallantry was killed, as were Mr. Jackſon the firſt lieutenant of the Tyger, Captain Moore who commanded the marines in the Elizabeth, and the maſter of the Yarmouth. Captain Brereton of the Tyger, Somerſet of the Cumberland, the ſecond lieutenant of the Grafton, and the fourth of the Saliſbury were wounded. None of the Engliſh ſhips after the engagement could ſet half their ſails, and the Newcaſtle and Tyger were taken into tow by the Elizabeth and Weymouth. The loſs of the enemy muſt have been much more conſiderable, as the Engliſh in battle always fire at the hull of the ſhip, and the French ſquadron was crowded with men.

Three general engagements, within the ſpace of eighteen months, between the ſame fleets, under the ſame commanders, are very ſingular and memorable events; and it is ſurprizing, that in theſe ſpirited actions, not a ſhip on either ſide was either taken or ſunk. Pocock's fleet was ſoon in a proper condition for action, and braved the French fleet before Pondicherry, where it had taken ſhelter, and lay under its cannon, utterly averſe to any farther conflict.

Affairs were in this ſituation, when Admiral Corniſh arrived on the coaſt of Coromandel, and joined Pocock, by which Great Britain attained as decided a ſuperiority in ſtrength, as ſhe had before in courage and ability, ſo that the French no longer appeared in thoſe ſeas. Moſt of their ſhips went off as it was thought to the Iſle of France; whereupon the French affairs went rapidly to ruin. On the 5th of April the important fortreſs of Caracal ſurrendered to the ſea and land-forces, under Admiral Corniſh and Major Monckton. By the reduction of which, and two other places of leſs importance, the French were circumſcribed within the walls of Pondicherry. In order to give theſe important events in one continued narrative, we have been obliged to anticipate the latter tranſactions, and encroach on the annals of 1760.

The French were not the only enemies with which the Engliſh had to cope in the Eaſt-Indies. The Dutch poſſeſſed a ſtrong fort at Chinchura, on the Ganges, and aimed at engroſſing the whole trade of ſaltpetre. For this purpoſe the governor of Batavia equipped an armament of ſeven ſhips, having on-board five hundred European troops, and ſix hundred Malays, under the command of Colonel Ruſſel. The Engliſh, having totally ſubdued the French in Bengal, and moulded their country government to their wiſhes, were reſolved not to ſuffer a new power to eſtabliſh itſelf, which by leaguing with the nabob might ſhake their eſtabliſhment; and, although Meer Jaffier was a prince of their own creation, yet they placed no dependence on his grateful attachments, being ſenſible that force would alone ſecure to them what force had effected.

Colonel Clive then preſided at Calcutta, and aſſuming an authority, which upon no principle of juſtice he could be ſaid to poſſeſs, he peremptorily forbade the Dutch commodore landing his troops, or proceeding up the river to his own factory. The Dutchman, in revenge for this affront, took ſome ſmall veſſels on the river, and ſtopped the Calcutta Indiaman, who was ſailing down on her paſſage to Europe. The Britiſh fleet, being on the coaſt of Coromandel, could yield no aſſiſtance; ſo that Colonel Clive gave directions to three of the company's ſhips which lay at anchor off Calcutta to attack the Dutch armament, and, notwithſtanding the great diſproportion of force, after a ſhort engagement one of the Dutchmen was run aſhore, and two other ſlipped their cables and bore away; the commodore thereupon ſtruck his flag to the Calcutta, and the other three ſhips followed the example of their commander. This victory was obtained without the loſs of a man on the ſide of the Engliſh; the Dutch had ſeveral killed. The Dutch ſhips being thus diſpoſed of, Colonel Clive detached Colonel Ford, at the head of five hundred men, to attack the troops which had been landed, and were on their march to Chinchura. On the 25th of November, this ſmall body of troops fought and conquered the Dutch army, although eleven hundred ſtrong. Theſe ſucceſſes produced an accomadation; and a mutual engagement being entered into, hoſtilities ceaſed. About three hundred of the Dutch, which had been made priſoners, entered into the ſervice of Great Britain; the reſt embarked on-board their ſhips, which were reſtored as ſoon as the peace was ratified, and departed for Batavia.

1759. The moſt ſanguine expectations were formed from the vigorous meaſures which had been planned by the miniſtry, and which the liberal and cheerful contributions of an united people had enabled them fully to carry into effect; and in the iſſue theſe expectations were not found to be deluſive, the year 1759 being the brighteſt period in the annals of Great Britain. The great miniſter who preſided at the head of affairs, had carefully cheriſhed and cultivated an active ſpirit among the people; in conſequence of which, the war was proſecuted with an ardour and efficacy peculiar to his adminiſtration. Whilſt the war in Germany was carried on in its fulleſt extent, with redoubled efforts, theſe objects did not in the leaſt abate the attention of government, to avail itſelf of the ſuperiority of the kingdom at ſea; and in North America the object was no leſs than that of annihilating the power of France.

A degree of diligence hitherto unknown, was uſed in refitting and increaſing the men of war, and the odious and oppreſſive method of preſſing ſeamen was exerciſed with an indiſcriminating vigilance. At the ſame time a proclamation was iſſued, offering a bounty of 5l. for every able-bodied ſeaman, and 30s. for every ordinary ſeaman, or able-bodied landman, who ſhould voluntarily enter on-board his majeſty's navy;

and a reward of 40s. was offered for the diſcovery of every able-bodied ſeaman, and 20s. for every ordinary ſeaman, ſecreting himſelf. Beſides the bounties paid by government, many cities, towns, corporations, and even individuals, offered premiums to ſuch as entered into the ſervice of their country. The city of London ſubſcribed a conſiderable ſum for this purpoſe; and the corporation reſolved; that every perſon ſo entering, ſhould be entitled to the freedom of the city at the expiration of three years, or ſooner, if the war ſhould terminate before that time. At the ſame time, ſuch care and diligence were uſed in diſciplining the militia, that before the cloſe of the year, the greater part of thoſe conſtitutional battalions rivalled the regular troops in the perfection of their exerciſe, and ſeemed to be in all reſpects as fit for actual ſervice.

A ſquadron of nine ſhips of the line with ſixty tranſports, having on-board ſix regiments of foot, had ſailed for the Weſt-Indies the preceding November, in order to attack and reduce the French Caribbee iſlands. General Hopſon commanded the land-forces; the fleet in the expedition was to be under the orders of Commodore Moore, then in the Weſt-Indies. Martinico, the largeſt and principal of theſe, was firſt to be attacked. This iſland lies between the 14th and 15th deg. of north latitude, and is about twenty leagues north-weſt of Barbadoes. It is about ſixteen leagues in length, and forty-five in circumference, leaving out the capes, which ſometimes extend two or three leagues into the ſea. The two principal towns are, St. Pierre and Port Royal, for their magnitude, trade, and ſtrength.

The armament deſtined to attack this iſland, ſailed from Barbadoes, on the 13th of January; on the 15th, they entered the great bay of Port Royal, where, after having beaten the enemy from their batteries and intrenchments, the troops landed. At their firſt appearance, the Floriſſant of ſeventy-four guns, which had been ſo roughly handled by Captain Tyrrel in the Buckingham, then lying under the guns of Fort Negro, along with two frigates that bore a part in that action, turned up under the citadel, and came to an anchor in the Careenage, behind the fortification; but the two frigates, under favour of the night, made their eſcape through the tranſports, and directed their courſe for Europe, where we ſhall find in the ſequel one of them was captured. No ſooner was the landing effected, than it appeared that the face of the country ſerved more effectually to obſtruct the progreſs of an invader than the troops that were oppoſed to them. The country was interſected by numerous rivulets, beſides which, ſteep acclivities every where rendered advances extremely difficult and fatiguing. To add to theſe natural impediments, the French had broke up the roads, and Pointe des Negres, the place of debarkation, was five miles diſtance from Port Royal. Major-general Hopſon hereupon propoſed to Commodore Moore, to land the heavy cannon, ſtores, and proviſions, nearer to the fort; but the naval commander thought ſuch a ſtep impracticable, until the weſt part of the fort ſhould be ſilenced by the batteries raiſed by the troops on ſhore; however, he is ſaid to have offered, not only to land the heavy artillery at Negro Point, where the troops then were, but alſo to tranſport it wherever the general pleaſed, by the ſeamen, without any aſſiſtance from the land-forces; but it appears that no cordial good will ſubſiſted between the general and commodore; the offer was not accepted, and the troops were re-embarked on the day of their landing. By this ſtep the deſigns againſt Port Royal were laid aſide.

It was then propoſed to attack St. Pierre; accordingly the fleet ſailed for that place, and entered the bay of St. Pierre on the 19th. The commodore, having obſerved the ſtrength and poſition of the works, acquainted the general, that he thought his ſhips capable of deſtroying the fortifications, and putting the troops in poſſeſſion of the town, but that in accompliſhing it, the fleet might probably ſuffer ſo much as to be rendered incapable of proceeding to any farther enterprize, and as the garriſoning the place would be a conſiderable reduction of the land-forces, without obtaining an equivalent advantage; and as an immediate attempt upon the iſland of Guadaloupe, was an object of greater conſequence, the commodore recommended proceeding immediately to Baſſe Terre. The general concurring in this opinion, the enterprize againſt Martinico was abandoned.

On the 22d of January the fleet appeared off the iſland of Guadaloupe. This iſland is about eighty leagues in circumference. It is divided into two parts by a ſmall arm of the ſea, which is not above two leagues long, and from fifteen to forty fathom broad.

This canal, known by the name of the ſalt river, is navigable, but will only carry veſſels of fifty tons burthen. This iſland received its name from the reſemblance which it bears to a chain of mountains called Guadaloupe in Old Spain. That part of the iſland which gives its name to the whole colony, is, towards the centre, full of craggy rocks. On the top of theſe a mountain called la Souphriere, or the Brimſtone Mountain, riſes to an immenſe height into the middle region of the air. It exhales, through various openings, a thick black ſmoak, intermixed with ſparks that are viſible by night. From all theſe hills flow numberleſs ſprings, which fertilize the plains below, and moderate the burning heat of the climate by their refreſhing ſtreams. Such is that part of the iſland properly called Guadaloupe; that which is commonly called Baſſeterre, or Grandterre, has not been ſo much favoured by nature. It is, indeed, leſs rugged, but it wants ſprings and rivers: the ſoil is not ſo fertile, nor the climate ſo wholeſome or ſo pleaſant.

On the 23d of January, the fleet came before the town of Baſſe Terre, the capital of the iſland; a place of conſiderable extent, large trade, and defended by a ſtrong fortreſs. This fortreſs, in the opinion of the chief engineer, was not to be reduced by the ſhipping. But Commodore Moore, notwithſtanding this opinion, brought four men of war to bear upon the citadel; the reſt were diſpoſed againſt the town and the batteries, which obſtructed the landing. About nine in the morning a fire from all ſides began, which continued with the utmoſt fury until night, when the citadel, and all the batteries, were effectually ſilenced. During this cannonade, the bombs, that were continually ſhowered upon the town, ſet it on fire in ſeveral places. It burned without interruption the whole of this and the following day; when it was almoſt totally reduced to aſhes. The loſs was prodigious from the number of warehouſes in the town, full of rich but combuſtible materials. Nothing could be more ſtriking, than the horror of the ſpectacle, from the mutual and unremitted fire of ſo many great ſhips and batteries, heightened with a long line of flames, which extended along the ſhore, and formed the back ground of this terrible picture. In this engagement, our loſs was very inconſiderable. The next day the forces landed without oppoſition, and took poſſeſſion of the town and citadel. Notwithſtanding this ſucceſs, the iſland was far from being reduced. The country is rugged and mountainous, and abounded with paſſes and defiles, of a difficult and dangerous nature. The inhabitants had retired with their armed negroes into the mountains; and all ſeemed prepared to defend their poſſeſſions bravely, and to the laſt extremities.

General Hopſon died on the 27th of February, and General Barrington ſucceeded him. He embarked part of his forces for the Grand Terre, where Colonel Crump attacked and reduced the towns of St. Anne and St. François. Whilſt this attack diverted the enemy's attention, the general fell upon the ſtrong poſt of Goſier, and poſſeſſed himſelf of it; and thus the Grand Terre was in a manner reduced, and diſabled from ſending any relief to the other part.

There is a conſiderable mountain, not far from the town of Baſſe Terre, called *Dos d'Aſne*, or the Aſs's Back; thither a great part of the enemy had retired. It is a poſt of great ſtrength, and great importance, as it keeps a watch upon the town, and at the ſame time forms the only communication there is between that town and the Capes Terre, the plaineſt, pleaſanteſt, and moſt fruitful part of the whole iſland. It was not judged practicable to break into it by this way; and all the reſt of Guadaloupe was in the enemy's poſſeſſion. Therefore a plan was formed for another operation, by which it was propoſed to ſurprize Petit Bourg, Goyave, and St. Mary's, and by that way to march into Capes Terre, which might be eaſily reduced. But, this deſign failing, it was neceſſary to attempt thoſe places by plain force. Colonels Clavering and Crump landed near Arnonville, and attacked the enemy, deeply intrenched at a poſt, ſtrong by nature, called Le Corne. This was forced; another intrenchment at Petit Bourg had the ſame fate; a third near St. Mary's yielded in the ſame manner. An opening being at laſt made into the Capes Terre, the inhabitants ſaw that the beſt part of the country was on the point of being given up to fire and ſword; they came in and capitulated; their poſſeſſions, and their civil and religious liberties, were granted to them.

This capitulation was hardly ſigned, when the French ſquadron, under M. Bompart, appeared before the iſland; and landed at St. Anne's in the Grand Terre, the general of the French Caribbees, with ſix hundred regular troops, two thouſand irregulars, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The capitulation was made at the moſt critical time; for, had this reinforcement arrived but a day ſooner, the whole expedition had probably failed.

Thus came into the poſſeſſion of Great Britain, this valuable iſland, after a campaign of near three months, in which the Engliſh troops behaved with a firmneſs, courage, and perſeverance, that ought never to be forgotten. Intolerable heat, continual fatigue, the air of an unaccuſtomed climate, a country full of lofty mountains and ſteep precipices, poſts ſtrong by nature and by art, defended by men who fought for every thing that was dear to them; all theſe difficulties only increaſed the ardour of our forces, who thought nothing impoſſible under commanders, who were not more diſtinguiſhed for their intrepidity and ſkill, than their zeal for the ſervice of their country, and the perfect harmony and good underſtanding that ſubſiſted between them. It muſt not be omitted, that many of the inhabitants exerted themſelves very gallantly in the defence of their country. A woman, a conſiderable planter in the iſland, particularly diſtinguiſhed herſelf; ſhe was called Madame Ducharmey: this amazon put herſelf at the head of her ſervants and ſlaves, and acquitted herſelf in a manner not inferior to the braveſt men.

Three ſmall iſlands in the neighbourhood of Guadaloupe, called Deſſeada, Santos, and Petit Terre, ſurrendered ſoon after; and, on the 26th of May, the iſland of Marigalante, which lies about three leagues to the ſouth-eaſt of Grande Terre, and extends about twenty miles in length, and is fifteen broad, capitulated. This was the laſt poſſeſſion held by the French in the Leeward Iſlands; Martinico is one of thoſe to the windward. Theſe beginnings were happy omens to the ſucceſs of the more important undertaking, which was to be carried on in another part of America. The reputation of our arms there, except in the reduction of Louiſbourg, had hitherto not been very great; but other commanders were now appointed, and other maxims prevailed.

General Barrington, in the beginning of July, embarked on-board the Roebuck for Europe. About the ſame time the commodore was joined by two ſhips of the line from England, which rendered him greatly ſuperior in ſtrength to the French fleet, under M. de Bompart, which then lay in harbour at Martinico. At this time Vice-admiral Cotes commanded in the Jamaica ſtation, but though the French ſquadron afterwards ſailed to St. Domingo, neither the admiral nor the commodore could fall in with it, ſo that the operations at ſea in the Weſt-Indies, during the remainder of the year, were performed by cruiſers, both king's ſhips and privateers, who were very active, and took many valuable prizes.

From the iſlands of the Weſt-Indies, we ſhall paſs to the continent of America, where General Amherſt commanded in chief. Sir William Johnſon, whoſe influence among the Indians was very great, and who had actually brought over many tribes from their league with France, and fixed them in the intereſt of Great Britain, was appointed to attack the fort of Niagara. Amherſt, at the head of twelve thouſand men, regulars and provincials, was to attack Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which being reduced, he was to croſs lake Champlain, and proceed to the ſouthern ſhore of the river St. Laurence, and croſſing that body of water with his army, enter Canada to the weſtward of Quebec. Such were the ſervices to which the army on the continent was deſtined.

But the moſt important object of the campaign of 1759 was the reduction of Quebec, and this enterprize was committed to Brigadier general Wolſe, who had ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the ſiege of Louiſbourg. In this ſervice the fleet was to co-operate with the land-forces. Accordingly about the middle of February, a ſquadron of twenty ſail of the line, with frigates, ſloops, bomb ketches, and fire-ſhips, ſailed from Spithead for Louiſbourg, under the command of the admirals Saunders and Holmes, the former of whom was on this occaſion created vice-admiral

miral of the blue. This fleet arrived within ſight of Louiſbourg on the 21ſt of April; but the harbour was ſo choaked up with ice, that the ſhips were obliged to proceed to Halifax.

As ſoon as the ſeaſon became favourable for action, Admiral Saunders took his departure from Halifax, and arriving with his fleet at Louiſbourg, where he took on-board eight thouſand troops, proceeded up the great river St. Laurence, and arrived at the iſle of Orleans, which is ſeated in that river, about a hundred leagues from its mouth, and a little below Quebec. The iſle of Orleans afforded every refreſhment which the troops ſtood in need of; it is twenty-one miles in length, and about four broad, and produces plenty of grain and vegetables common to the climate.

The conteſt for the poſſeſſion of Canada, as it eſſentially affected the intereſts of the two contending nations, ſo was it maintained on both ſides by men of eminent ſkill and bravery. M. de Montcalm, the French governor, was a reſolute and experienced officer, and every way qualified to play for the important ſtake, which his country had depending. He was at the head of a body of troops more numerous than their aſſailants; the place he had to defend was ſtrong by nature, and it had alſo received every aſſiſtance from art. He was alſo well provided with proviſion and ammunition. His army had taken the field in a very advantageous ſituation, being encamped along the ſhore of Beaufort, from the river St. Charles to the falls of Montmorenci, every acceſſible part being deeply intrenched. Whilſt the northern ſhore of the river was thus ſecured, a body of French troops were poſſeſſed of Point Levi on the ſouth ſhore, oppoſite to the city of Quebec, and here a battery with cannon was erected.

General Wolfe, ſenſible of the importance of diſlodging the French from the ſouthern ſhore, detached Brigadier Monckton with four battalions, who croſſed the river at night, and by day break attacked the French ſo warmly, that they ſoon obliged them to abandon their poſt. At the ſame time Colonel Carleton took poſſeſſion of the weſtern point of the iſland of Orleans, both which poſts were immediately occupied, and a battery of mortars and artillery erected at Point Levi, which, being within cannon ſhot of the city, was a poſt of the utmoſt conſequence. Montcalm immediately detached a body of one thouſand ſix hundred men acroſs the river, to attack and deſtroy the works before they were completed: but this detachment fell into diſorder, fired upon each other, and retired in confuſion. The battery being finiſhed without farther interruption, the cannons and mortars began to play with ſuch ſucceſs, that in a little time the upper town was conſiderably damaged, and the lower town reduced to a heap of rubbiſh. The river St. Laurence at this point narrows ſo conſiderably, that from being four or five leagues broad, here it is not above a mile over.

The Marquis de Montcalm, being determined not to rely on his ſuperiority of numbers, and begin an attack, choſe to confide in the ſtrength of the country, and to act only on the defenſive. To the eaſtward of Quebec runs the river Montmorenci, which diſcharges itſelf into St. Laurence; nearer to the town, and parallel to this ſtream, runs a ſmaller one, called St. Charles. Between theſe two rivers, and ſomewhat behind Quebec, Montcalm continued poſted, with nearly the whole force under his command.

On the 18th of July, the Britiſh admiral, at the requeſt of General Wolfe, ſent two ſhips of war, two armed ſloops, and ſome tranſports, having troops on-board, up the river. Theſe paſſed the city of Quebec without ſuſtaining any damage. The general, being on-board of this little armament, carefully obſerved the banks on the north ſide of the river, which were extremely difficult from the nature of the ground, and theſe difficulties were greatly heightened by the ſkilful arrangements of the French commander. Notwithſtanding this, the general meditated a deſcent at St. Michael's, about three miles above the town; but, as ſoon as this intention became apparent to the enemy, they brought down artillery and a mortar from Quebec to play upon the ſhipping. This occaſioned the deſign to be laid aſide; and Wolfe returned to Montmorenci, where Brigadier Townſhend had, by maintaining a ſuperior fire acroſs the river, prevented the enemy from erecting a battery, which would have commanded the Engliſh camp. He now determined to attack the French on this ſide, although poſted to great advantage. A detached redoubt cloſe to the river was firſt to be carried. For this purpoſe, on the laſt day of July, part of Monckton's brigade was embarked in the boats of the fleet, to be tranſported from the Point of Levi. The two brigades, commanded by the Generals Townſhend and Murray, were to croſs the river as ſoon as the ebb of tide rendered it fordable. To facilitate their paſſage, the admiral had ſtationed the Centurion ſhip of war in the channel, to check the fire of the lower battery from the town, by which the ford was commanded; whilſt the cannon, which was placed on an eminence, did great execution towards the left of the enemy's intrenchment, and two flat-bottomed armed veſſels, prepared for the purpoſe, were run aground near the redoubt, to favour the deſcent of the forces. Theſe manœuvres threw the French into ſuch viſible confuſion; and the fire from the Centurion was ſo well directed, that the general reſolved to ſeize that favourable moment for ſtorming the intrenchment. This meaſure, equally prudent and ſpirited, miſcarried by an accident not to be foreſeen. The Engliſh grenadiers, who led the attack, had orders, immediately on their landing, to form on the beach, and not begin the attack until they were ſupported by the other troops which were to paſs the ford. Theſe directions were not obſerved; the men were no ſooner on ſhore, than they preſſed forward to the enemy's intrenchments in the utmoſt diſorder. The fire from the enemy did great execution, and obliged them to retreat behind the redoubt, which the French had abandoned at their approach. Had theſe grenadiers been leſs precipitate, it does not ſeem probable that the French lines would have been forced; but, as it was, the general ſaw it abſolutely neceſſary to call them off, that they might form behind Monckton's brigade, which was drawn upon the beach in excellent order; a conſiderable number of wounded, among which were ſeveral officers, remained on the field, expoſed to the barbarity of the Indian ſavages. The whole loſs ſuſtained in killed and wounded amounted to upwards of eight hundred, among which were fifty-ſeven officers.

The ſeaſon was now ſo far advanced, and the ſmall force, which General Wolfe commanded, was ſo conſiderably reduced by the late miſcarriage, that the reduction of Quebec began to be deſpaired of by the commanders both of the fleet and army.

To a mind like Wolfe's, glowing with an ardent deſire of acquiring military fame, ſo fatal a check in his career was felt very forcibly; and the poſture of his affairs ſcarcely afforded him a probable expectation of counterbalancing this loſs by a more ſucceſsful ſtroke. The general remained a prey to chagrin and vexation during the whole month of Auguſt, in a ſtate of mortifying inactivity. A vigorous mind baffled in the grand object of its purſuit, and deſpairing of better fortune, fatally impairs the body in which it is lodged. Wolfe, whoſe conſtitution was far from being robuſt and hardy, became a prey to diſeaſe. A fever ſeized him, which for ſome time rendered him incapable of taking the lead. In this infirm ſtate he deſired the general officers to conſult together for the public utility. Two of them, viz. Murray and Monckton, were of opinion, that the Points of Levi and Orleans, being left in a proper ſtate of defence, the reſt of the troops ſhould be conveyed up the river, with a view to draw the enemy from the ſituation which they were then in, and bring them, if poſſible, to an engagement.

Accordingly, on the 12th of September, an hour after midnight, four complete regiments, the light infantry commanded by Colonel Howe, a detachment of highlanders, and the American grenadiers, embarked in flat-bottomed boats, under the command of Generals Monckton and Murray, although General Wolfe accompanied the detachment in perſon. Admiral Holmes with ſome men of war had proceeded up the river, about three leagues above the place which had been choſen for the deſcent. Montcalm hereupon detached from his camp M. de Bougainville, with fifteen thouſand men, to watch the motions of theſe ſhips. Hereby the enemy's ſtrength was divided, which in that poſture of affairs was a great point gained to the Engliſh. It was deſigned to land the troops now embarked within a league of cape Diamond, ſituated above the town, in hope of aſcending the heights of Abraham; which riſe abruptly with a ſteep aſcent from the banks of the river.

The boats glided ſilently along with the tide, without alarming the French centinels that were poſted on the ſhore; but, by the rapidity of the current and the darkneſs of the night, they ſomewhat overſhot the mark, and the troops landed a little below the place of attack. The care and attention exerciſed by all concerned in this difficult enterprize, did great honour both to the marine and land ſervice. Colonel Howe, with the light infantry and highlanders, aſcended the woody precipices that ſkirted the ſhore, with admirable courage and activity; and diſlodged a captain's guard, which defended a ſmall intrenched narrow path, by which alone the reſt of the forces could reach the ſummit. Then they mounted without farther moleſtation from the enemy, and the general drew them up in order, as they arrived. The ſecond embarkation under Brigadier Townſhend was landed and formed with the reſt by day-break.

Montcalm, when he heard that the Engliſh had aſcended the hill, and were formed on the high ground at the back of the town, ſcarcely credited the intelligence, and ſtill believed it to be a feint to induce him to abandon that ſtrong poſt, which had been the object of all the real attempts that had been made ſince the beginning of the campaign. But he was ſoon, and fatally for him, undeceived. He ſaw clearly that the Engliſh fleet and army were in ſuch a ſituation, that the upper and lower town might be attacked in concert, and that nothing but a battle could poſſibly ſave it. Accordingly he determined to give them battle; and, quitting Beauport, paſſed the river St. Charles, and formed his troops oppoſite to ours.

He filled the buſhes that were in his front with detachments of Indians and his beſt markſmen, to the number of about fifteen hundred; his regular forces formed his left; his right was compoſed of the troops of the colony, ſupported by two battalions of regulars. The reſt of the Indians and Canadians extended on that ſide, and attempted to outflank the left of the Engliſh, which was formed to prevent that deſign, in a manner which the military men call *potence*; that is, in a body which preſents two faces to the enemy. Here Brigadier-general Townſhend commanded ſix regiments, and the Louiſbourg grenadiers were diſpoſed in a line to the right of this body, extending to the river. A regiment was drawn up behind the right for a reſerve. It was formed in eight ſubdiviſions with large intervals. The light infantry under Colonel Howe protected the rear and the left. The diſpoſitions on both ſides were judicious, and the engagement on both ſides began with ſpirit.

The Engliſh troops were exhorted to reſerve their fire; and they bore that of the enemy's light troops in front, which was galling, though irregular, with the utmoſt patience and good order, waiting for the main body of the enemy, which advanced faſt upon them. At forty yards diſtance our troops gave their fire, which took place in its full extent, and made a terrible havock among the French. It was ſupported with as much vivacity as it was begun, and the enemy every where yielded to it; but juſt in the moment when the fortune of the field began to declare itſelf, General Wolfe, in whoſe life every thing ſeemed included, fell; General Monckton, the next to him in command, fell immediately after, and both were conveyed out of the line; the command now devolved on General Townſhend. It was at a very critical time: for, though the enemy began to fall back, and were much broken, the loſs of the two generals was a very diſcouraging circumſtance, and it required great temper and great exertions to ſupport the advantages that had been gained, and to puſh them to their proper extent. General Townſhend ſhewed himſelf equal to ſo arduous a duty: the troops preſerved their ſpirit, and each corps ſeemed to exert itſelf with a view to its peculiar character: the grenadiers with their bayonets, the highlanders with their broad ſwords, and the reſt of the forces with a ſteady and continued fire, drove the enemy in great diſorder from every poſt, and completed their defeat. During the whole action, Colonel Howe with his light infantry covered the left wing in ſuch a manner, as entirely to fruſtrate the attempts of the enemy's Indians and Canadians upon that flank.

The field now ſeemed to be completely decided, when a new enemy appeared, which threatened to bring on a freſh engagement, and to put all again to the hazard. M. de Bougainville, whom the feigned movements of the Engliſh troops had drawn up the river, turned back on diſcovering their real deſign, and now appeared on the rear of the army with a body of two thouſand men. But fortunately the main body of the French was by this time ſo broken and diſperſed, that the general was able to eſtabliſh his rear, and to turn ſuch an oppoſition on that ſide, that the enemy retired after a very feeble attempt.

However glorious this victory was, and however important in its conſequences, it muſt be admitted that it was very dearly bought. Soldiers may be raiſed; officers will be formed by experience; but the loſs of a genius in war, is a loſs which we know not how to repair. The death of Wolfe was indeed grievous to his country, but to himſelf the moſt happy that can be imagined; and the moſt to be envied by all thoſe who have a true reliſh for military glory. Unindebted to family or connections, unſupported by intrigue or faction, he had accompliſhed the whole buſineſs of life at a time when others are only beginning to appear; and at the age of thirty-five, without feeling the weakneſs of age, or the viciſſitude of fortune, having ſatisfied his honeſt ambition, having completed his character, having fulfilled the expectation of his country, he fell at the head of his conquering troops, and expired in the arms of victory.

The circumſtances that attended the death of ſuch a perſon, are too intereſting to be paſſed over in ſilence, and they were indeed ſuch as ſpoke the whole tenor of his life. He firſt received a wound in the wriſt; but, that he might not diſcourage his troops, he wrapped it up in his handkerchief, and encouraged his men to advance; ſoon after he received another ball in his belly; this alſo he diſſembled, and exerted himſelf as before; when he received a third in his breaſt; under which he at laſt ſunk, and ſuffered himſelf, unwillingly, to be carried behind the ranks. As he lay ſtruggling with the anguiſh and weakneſs of three grievous wounds, he ſeemed only ſolicitous about the fortune of the battle. He begged one, who attended him, to ſupport him to view the field; but, as he found that the approach of death had dimmed and confuſed his ſight, he deſired an officer who was by him, to give him an account of what he ſaw. The officer anſwered, that the enemy ſeemed broken; he repeated his queſtion a few minutes after with much anxiety, when he was told that the enemy was totally routed, and that they fled in all parts. Then ſaid he, "I am ſatisfied;" and immediately expired.

Without the ſame advantages, the enemy alſo had an heavy loſs in this battle, which no doubt, contributed to their defeat. M. de Montcalm, commander in chief, was killed; an officer who had done the higheſt ſervices to his country, throughout the whole American war, and perfectly ſupported his reputation in this laſt ſcene of it, having made the moſt perfect diſpoſitions that human prudence could ſuggeſt, both before the battle and in the engagement. It is ſomething remarkable, that in both armies, the firſt in command ſhould be killed, and the ſecond dangerouſly wounded. But General Monckton happily recovered; the French officer died a little after the battle. This important victory was obtained at the expence of fifty-ſeven men killed, including nine officers; and of about 600 men wounded. The enemy had 1500 men killed.

Vice-admiral Saunders, who, together with his ſubordinates Holmes and Durell, had all along exerted themſelves to the utmoſt to co-operate with the land forces, immediately upon this victory ſent up all the boats of the fleet, with artillery and ammunition; and on the 17th day of the month, ſailed up with all the ſhips of war to attack the lower town; while the upper part ſhould be aſſaulted by General Townſhend. This gentleman had employed the time from the day of action, in ſecuring the camp with redoubts; in forming a military road for the cannon; in drawing up the artillery; preparing batteries, and cutting off the enemy's communication with the country. The beſieged, ſeeing the vigorous meaſures which were purſuing, before any battery could be finiſhed, and the ſame day that the ſhips approached, ſent out a flag of truce with propoſals of capitulation, which were aſſented to by the general and admiral, and ſigned the next morning at eight o'clock. By it, the garriſon, including the land-forces, marines, and ſailors, were allowed to march out of the town with their arms and baggage, attended with the honours of war, and were to be conveyed as ſpeedily as poſſible to the firſt port of France. The inhabitants, on laying down their arms, were ſecured in the poſſeſſion of their houſes, goods, effects, and privileges, particularly the free exerciſe of their religion, until their condition ſhould be ſettled by a definitive treaty of peace. The capitulation was no ſooner ratified, than the Britiſh forces took poſſeſſion of Quebec on the land ſide, and guards were poſted in different parts of the town, to preſerve order and diſcipline; at the ſame time Captain Palliſer, with a body of ſeamen, entered the lower town, and took the ſame precautions.

The walls and fortifications of the city were but little injured, but the houſes were almoſt entirely demoliſhed. Brigadier-general Murray was left governor of the city, with almoſt the whole army for a garriſon. Brigadier-general Monckton was conveyed to New York, where he happily recovered of his wound. General Townſhend proceeded with the fleet to Europe, as the river St. Laurence is conſtantly frozen over, even below Quebec, during the winter. Thus was the capital of French America ſurrendered to the Engliſh, after a moſt ſevere campaign of near three months; and perhaps if this enterprize be fully and impartially conſidered, it will be acknowledged that no undertaking was ever more beſet with difficulties, carried on with a more gallant perſeverance, or accompliſhed with more vigour and ability. A city ſtrong in ſituation and fortification, was to be attacked. An army greatly ſuperior in number to the beſiegers, was poſted under the walls of that city, in an impregnable ſituation. That army was to be forced to battle againſt the inclinations of a wiſe and cautious commander. A theatre of more than five leagues was to be filled, and operations of that extent to be carried on in the eye of the ſuperior army, by leſs than ſeven thouſand men. In the midſt of ſurrounding difficulties, the genius of the commander ſhewed itſelf ſuperior to all. Every diſpoſition to that daring, but judicious, attempt, near the heights of Abraham, which at length drew Montcalm from his intrenchments, was a maſter-piece in the art of war. But theſe things, notwithſtanding the extraordinary abilities of the general, could never have been accompliſhed, had not the marine co-operated with the utmoſt unanimity, diligence, and ſkill. No murmuring or diſcontent broke out on this occaſion; no abſurd jealouſy; no mean competition between the land and ſea ſervice; but the moſt zealous endeavours to ſecond each other's efforts, and the moſt generous inclinations on each ſide, to give a due praiſe to their mutual ſervices.

The news of the reduction of Quebec followed cloſe on the heels of the diſpatches which gave an account of the failure of the firſt attack, and the little probability which appeared of any ſucceſsful ſtroke being ſtruck during the remainder of the campaign. Joy and exultation now ſucceeded to deſpondency. His majeſty beſtowed the honour of knighthood on Captain Douglas, of the Alcide, who brought over Colonel Hale, with the welcome tidings; beſides which, he beſtowed handſome preſents on both thoſe officers. A day of ſolemn thankſgiving was appointed by proclamation through all the dominions of Great Britain. The city of London, many other corporations of the kingdom, the two univerſities, preſented congratulatory addreſſes to his majeſty. Whilſt the

merit

merit of the deceaſed general rivaled that of the renowned captains of antiquity; the miniſter, (Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham,) when the parliament aſſembled, pronounced his eulogy with truly attic eloquence. The houſe of commons unanimouſly reſolved to addreſs his majeſty, praying him to order a monument to be erected in Weſtminſter Abbey, to the memory of Major-general Wolfe. At the ſame time they paſſed another reſolution, that the thanks of the houſe ſhould be given to the ſurviving generals and admirals employed in the glorious expedition to Quebec. Such were the triumphs in North America. We have next to record actions equally brilliant and deciſive on the European ſeas.

France, though bleeding at every pore, put on the appearance of offenſive war along her coaſts, and the preparations made in her principal ſea-ports threatened an invaſion of ſome part of Great Britain. At Dunkirk ſome frigates and tranſports were got ready, the command of which was given to M. Thurot. This officer had rendered himſelf conſpicuous for his daring ſpirit. His knowledge of ſea affairs he had acquired in the merchants' ſervice; at the breaking out of the war, he obtained the command of a privateer named the Belleiſle, in which ſtation his boldneſs and ſucceſs procured him this appointment in the French navy.

At Havre de Grace, in Normandy, a conſiderable number of flat-bottomed boats were conſtructed. At Vannes, in Lower Bretagne, a large body of troops was aſſembled, under the command of the Duke d'Aiguillon, commandant of that province, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf by cutting off the rear-guard of the Engliſh at St. Cas, the preceding year. At Breſt a large fleet was prepared, which was to be commanded by M. de Conflans, and employed in tranſporting the land-forces to Ireland, whilſt the Dunkirk ſquadron was to proceed to Scotland, and the tranſports at

Havre to convey troops to the oppoſite coaſt of England. The deſigns which France had thus formed in Europe, were as complicated as thoſe which Great Britain had formed in North America; but they were much leſs practicable, becauſe the French had to contend with an enemy whoſe ſuperiority was acknowledged, and at ſea, which is the proper element of Britons.

Theſe preparations, and theſe profeſſed deſigns, had no influence on the ſpirits of a people, whoſe confidence was unlimited in the preſiding miniſter. Proper meaſures were taken to fruſtrate theſe ſchemes of annoyance. A ſquadron under Commodore Boys lay off Dunkirk, to oppoſe Thurot. Admiral Hawke, with a formidable fleet, rode in the Bay of Biſcay, keeping a watchful eye on the port of Vannes, at the ſame time that it blocked up the harbour of Breſt. The preparations of France were not leſs ſpirited in the harbour of Toulon, where a large fleet was got ready for ſea; to oppoſe which, Admiral Boſcawen commanded a powerful fleet in the Mediterranean.

In the beginning of July, Rear-admiral Rodney ſailed from Spithead with a ſmall ſquadron of ſhips and bombs, to the oppoſite coaſt of Normandy. He caſt anchor in the road of Havre on the 3d of July; and, the bombs being placed in the narrow part of the channel leading to Harfleur, the next morning they began to throw their ſhells, and continued the bombardment without intermiſſion for fifty-two hours. The town was ſeveral times ſet on fire, and the magazine of ſtores for the flat-bottomed boats burnt with great fury for ſix hours. The inhabitants forſook their dwellings in the utmoſt conſternation, whilſt a numerous body of French troops were employed in throwing up intrenchments, erecting new batteries, and firing both with ſhot and ſhells at the aſſailants. In this attack, the injury which the enemy ſuſtained fell principally upon the peaceable and unoffending inhabitants;

habitants; a circumſtance ever to be regretted, and as much as poſſible to be avoided by every humane commander; but a maritime town, which fits out veſſels for annoying the ſtate with which they are at war, muſt acquieſce in its fate, if the fortune of war makes them the object of their enemy's vengeance. Many of the boats were overturned and damaged by the exploſion of the ſhells; but the whole of this fleet of tranſports was far from being deſtroyed, notwithſtanding one thouſand nine hundred ſhells and one thouſand one hundred carcaſſes were expended on this expedition; ſo that, although much injury was done to individuals, the deſigns of France were not fruſtrated.

What was the deſtination of the French fleet in the harbour of Toulon, was differently conjectured: ſome ſuppoſed it deſigned to proceed to North America; others, that it was to unite with the Breſt fleet and favour the intended invaſion. Admiral Boſcawen lay with his ſhips in the road of Hieres; in vain inviting the French to come out and engage. At length, June 7, he ordered three ſhips of the line to advance and burn two ſhips that lay cloſe to the mouth of the harbour. They accordingly approached with great intrepidity, and ſuſtained the fire of ſeveral batteries for upwards of three hours, ſome of which had not been ſeen before the ſhips bore down. Two ſmall forts they attempted to deſtroy, and cannonaded them for ſome time with great ſpirit; but being overmatched by ſuperior force, and the wind ſubſiding into a calm, they were with difficulty towed off in a very ſhattered condition. The admiral, on this diſaſter happening to three of his beſt ſhips, quitted his ſtation, and repaired to Gibraltar in order to refit; and M. de la Clue, the French commander of the ſquadron at Toulon, ſeized this opportunity of ſailing, in hope of paſſing the Strait's mouth unobſerved. His fleet conſiſted of twelve large ſhips and three frigates.

Admiral Boſcawen, as ſoon as his diſabled ſhips were nearly ready, ordered the Lyme frigate to cruiſe off Malaga, whilſt the Gibraltar frigate was ſtationed between Eſtepona and Ceuta Point; as he imagined the enemy would attempt paſſing the Straits, theſe ſhips were to give the earlieſt intelligence of their approach. On the 17th of Auguſt, the Gibraltar made the ſignal of their appearance, on the Barbary ſhore, to the eaſtward of Ceuta. Fourteen ſail were then in company. The Engliſh admiral got under ſail within two hours after the ſignal was deſcried, being then about ten o'clock at night, having fourteen ſail of the line, with the Shannon and Ætna fireſhips. The next morning at day-break, he deſcried ſeven large ſhips lying to. Theſe were the largeſt of the French ſhips, the reſt of the fleet having parted company in the night. On the firſt appearance of the Engliſh ſhips, the French admiral miſtook them for his own; but, the private ſignals which he threw out not being returned, he diſcovered his miſtake, and bore away with all the ſail he could ſet; yet, finding the Souveraine, one of his ſquadron, a heavy ſailer, he was obliged to ſlacken his courſe. The wind blew a freſh gale, and the Engliſh gained faſt upon the enemy. The ſignal for chaſing and engaging in a line of battle ahead was thrown out; and about half an hour after two o'clock, the headmoſt ſhips began to fire at the French rear, which ſupported the action with proper firmneſs. Boſcawen, in the Namur, reſerved his fire for the French admiral's ſhip the Ocean; and about four o'clock in the afternoon the conteſt began between the two commanders, by a furious broadſide being diſcharged into the Ocean from the Namur: in returning this ſalute, the Namur's mizen-maſt and topſail yards were ſhot away. The admiral hereupon ſhifted his flag to the Newark. During this ſhort but ſevere action, M. de la Clue had his left leg broken, and his right leg much wounded. The Centaur, of ſeventy-four guns, ſoon after ſtruck their colours. The purſuit continued during the night, under favour of which the Souveraine and Guerrier altered their courſe, and bore away from their commander. Only four ſhips now remained to be attacked, viz. The Ocean, Redoutable, Temeraire, and Modeſte. All reſiſtance on the ſide of the French then ſeemed vain; their admiral, who notwithſtanding his wounds did not quit the command, finding himſelf on the coaſt of Portugal, determined to burn his ſhips rather than ſurrender them. Having formed this reſolution, he ran the Ocean aſhore, two leagues from Lagos, under a fort called Almadana, and ſent notice to the commander of that fort, who fired three cannon-ſhot at the Engliſh. It happened unfavourably for the vanquiſhed that they had got ſomewhat too far to the weſtward; had they taken refuge on the coaſt of Spain, they might have found an hallowed aſylum; but the dependent ſtate of Portugal on Great Britain, cauſed the neutrality of her coaſts to be no check on the exulting conquerors. The Marquis de St. Aignan, captain of the Redoutable, followed the example of his commander, and both endeavoured to land their men; but, the ſea being rough, this proved a very tedious and difficult buſineſs. The wounded admiral was, however, conveyed on-ſhore, where he ſoon after died of his wounds, leaving a character not at all impaired by the diſtaſter which had befallen the fleet which he commanded.

M. de Caſtillon, captain of the Temeraire, and M. de Mouvre, captain of the Modeſte, anchored under the forts of Exavier and Lago. Captain Pratten in the Intrepid, and Captain Kirk in the America, were ordered to aſſail the Ocean; but the former, having anchored, could not get in among the breakers, ſo that Kirk performed that ſervice alone; on his firſt fire ſhe ſtruck, when, after taking out the men, as it was impoſſible to bring the ſhip off, ſhe was ſet on fire.

Vice-admiral Broderick, the ſecond in command, advancing with his diviſion, burned the Redoutable, which was alſo bulged, and abandoned by her officers and men; he likewiſe took the Modeſte; whilſt Captain Bentley of the Warſpight, who had remarkably ſignalized himſelf by his courage during the action of the preceding day, attacked the Temeraire, and brought her off with little damage.

This victory was obtained with the loſs of only thirty-ſix men killed, and one hundred and ninety-ſix wounded: what loſs the French ſuſtained is not known, but M. de la Clue, in his letter to the French ambaſſador at Liſbon, ſuppoſes that he had about one hundred killed on the ſpot, and ſeventy dangerouſly wounded, on-board his own ſhip. The Centaur, Temeraire, and Modeſte, by this event became part of the Britiſh fleet, the latter of which was a fine new ſhip, which had been only three months on the ſea.

Soon after the fate of the Toulon ſquadron was thus decided, a hard gale of wind drove Commodore Boys from his ſtation off Dunkirk, which gave the enterprizing Thurot an opportunity of ſlipping out to ſea, which he did not fail to avail himſelf of. But we ſhall leave this adventurer for the preſent, to ſpeak of more important events which occurred in the Bay of Biſcay.

The diſappointment and ruin that poured in upon the French from all quarters, ſerved only to render the court of Verſailles more determined upon making a deſcent on Ireland.

At this juncture M. Bompart's ſquadron arrived from the Weſt-Indies, which was a conſiderable addition to the ſtrength of M. de Conflans. A violent ſtorm, which happened in the beginning of November, drove the Britiſh fleet, commanded by Sir Edward Hawke, Sir Charles Hardy, and Rear-admiral Geary, off their ſtation, and even obliged them to return to Torbay. Conflans ſeized this opportunity and ſailed from Breſt, hoping to deſtroy the Engliſh ſquadron under Commodore Duff, which was ſtill in the bay, and was employed in watching the motions of the French at Vannes. The grand fleets of Great Britain and France both put to ſea on the ſame day. Nov. 14. On the third day after Sir Edward Hawke ſailed from Torbay, (where he had been joined by ſome of Admiral Boſcawen's ſhips,) he received intelligence of the Breſt fleet being out, whereupon he directed his courſe for Quiberon bay with a preſſed ſail, not doubting but the enemy would proceed thither to take on-board the land-forces, and for the purpoſe of overwhelming the Engliſh ſquadron, which lay at the mouth of the river. On the 20th, the fleet of France appeared in ſight, and the Britiſh ſquadron, which they had chaſed, joined Sir Edward Hawke. When the two fleets were thus ſituated, it was in the option of Conflans either to engage his antagoniſt, or to ſhelter himſelf amidſt the inſcrutable labyrinths of his rocky coaſt. At firſt he ſeemed to have adopted a plan of conduct which was judiciouſly brave. He retreated towards the French coaſt; and, as the weather was tempeſtuous, and the Engliſh had no pilots on-board capable of navigating their ſhips, they had greater dangers to encounter than thoſe which conſiſted in fighting French ſhips. Hawke, fully impreſſed with the idea that the French fleet muſt at all events be beaten, bore down impetuouſly upon the enemy.

At half an hour paſt two o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th of November, the engagement began, the Engliſh admiral having thrown out a ſignal to chaſe, and form in a line of battle as the ſhips ſhould come up. The iſland of Belleiſle was then to the northward, and the French admiral being headmoſt, led round the cardinals, (a cluſter of rocks ſo called.) Every ſhip as ſhe advanced poured in a broadſide on the ſternmoſt of the French, and bore down upon their

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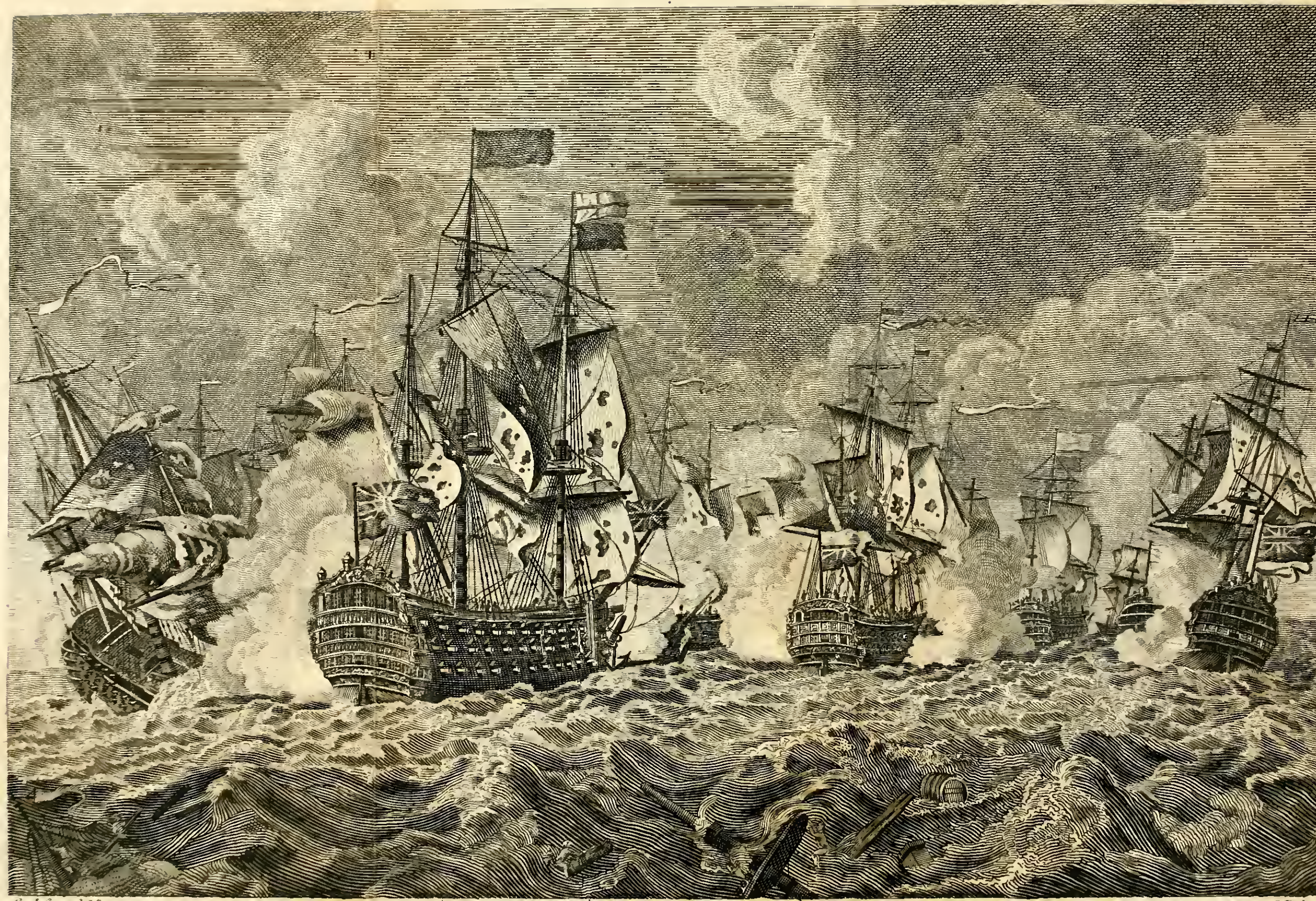

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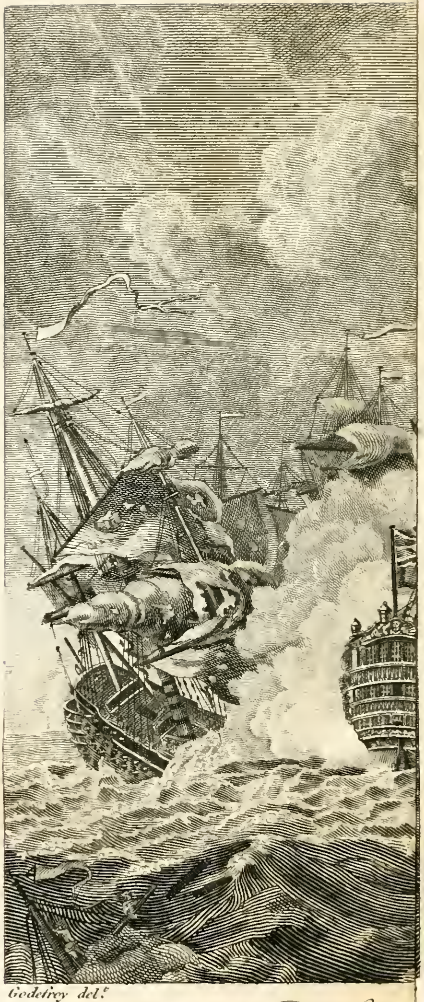
An exact View of the glorious Defeat of the French Fleet under Marshall Conflans, by Admiral Sir Edward Hawke, on the 20th Nov.r 1759.



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An exact View of the

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their van, leaving the rear to thoſe that came after. Sir Edward Hawke, however, in the Royal George, purſued a different conduct; for he reſerved his fire in paſſing through the rear of the enemy, and ordered the maſter to bring his ſhip alongſide of the French admiral in the Soleil Royal. The maſter remonſtrated on the imminent danger that would attend ſuch an attempt, to which Hawke anſwered, "You have done your duty in apprizing me of the danger; let us next ſee how well you can comply with my orders. I ſay, lay me alongſide the French admiral." The deſperate fury with which the attack was made ſhook the reſolution of the French; but the total deſtruction of ſuch a fleet was a buſineſs that required more time than a ſhort winter's afternoon afforded. The French owed more to the ſucceeding darkneſs than their own bravery. Their rear-admiral in the Formidable, was attacked with great bravery by Captain Speke in the Reſolution, a ſhip of inferior force, but ſhe maintained the fight until the Royal George came up, when ſhe ſtruck to the admiral. The Torbay, Captain Keppel, cloſely engaged the Theſée, and at length ſunk her, when all on-board periſhed, every attempt to ſave the men being ineffectual, whilſt the ſea was running mountains high. Lord Howe in the Magnanime, kept an inceſſant fire on the Heros, and after ſome time obliged her to ſtrike; but the wind blew ſo high that no boat could be ſent off to take poſſeſſion of her, and in the night ſhe ran aſhore.

Meantime the Britiſh admiral approached the Soleil Royal; when the Superbe, a French ſeventy-gun ſhip, with great gallantry, ſtruck in between the two admirals, and gave Sir Edward her broadſide. Hawke, who had reſerved his fire for a greater occaſion, was now obliged to diſcharge it upon this forward foe. His ſhot took ſuch effect, that the French ſhip immediately ſunk, and eight hundred men, who were on-board her, periſhed. This cataſtrophe was brought about by the temerity of the French captain, who, inſtead of expoſing his ſhip to the guns of the Royal George, ſhould have attacked her ſtern, or not at all, in which poſition his guns might have raked her terribly, and he would have been ſafe from the reach of ſuch heavy ſhot as were diſcharged from her lower tier.

Night approaching, the wind blew with redoubled violence on a lee-ſhore, and the Britiſh ſquadron being entangled among unknown ſhoals and iſlands, Sir Edward Hawke made the ſignal for anchoring to the weſtward of the ſmall iſland Dumet; and here the fleet remained all night in a very dangerous riding, alarmed by the fury of the ſtorm, and the inceſſant firing of guns of diſtreſs, without being able to diſtinguiſh whether they proceeded from friend or enemy. The Soleil Royal had, under favour of the night, anchored alſo in the midſt of the Britiſh ſquadron; but at day-break, M. de Conflans, diſcerning his miſtake, ordered her cable to be cut, and ſhe drove aſhore to the weſtward of Crozie. Hawke immediately made ſignal to the Eſſex, Captain Obrien, to ſlip cable, and purſue her; which was done accordingly; but in the purſuit ſhe unfortunately ran on a ſand-bank called Lefour, where the Reſolution, that had vanquiſhed the Formidable, was already grounded. Here theſe two ſhips were irrecoverably loſt, notwithſtanding the endeavours which were uſed to ſave them; but all their men and part of their ſtores were brought off; after which the wrecks were ſet on fire by the admiral's order, who detached the Portland, Chatham, and Vengeance, to deſtroy the Soleil Royal, which was burnt by her own people before the Engliſh ſhips could approach; but they arrived time enough to reduce the Heros to aſhes on the ſame ſand-bank, where ſhe had been alſo ſtranded. The Juſte, another of their capital ſhips, periſhed in the mouth of the Loire.

Seven large French ſhips were ſtill ſeen riding at anchor between point Penvas and the mouth of the river Vilaine; the admiral therefore threw out the ſignal for the whole fleet to weight, and bear down upon them; but the tempeſt increaſed to ſuch a height that he was obliged to countermand this ſignal, again to caſt anchor, and even to ſtrike the top-gallant-maſts.

The remains of the French fleet, which ſtill kept in ſhore, threw all their cannon, ſtores, and even water-caſks, into the ſea; when thus lightened, they availed themſelves of the tide of flood, and an abatement of the tempeſt, and entered the river Vilaine, where they lay within half a mile of the entrance, protected by ſome occaſional batteries which were erected on the ſhore, and by two large frigates moored acroſs the mouth of the harbour, which effectually ſecured them from any attempts of ſmall veſſels, and the water was too ſhoal for large ſhips in force to float within fighting diſtance. The other part of the fleet which drove out to ſea in the night, under the command of M. Beaufremont, vice-admiral, ſtretched away for Rochfort.

Thus concluded this memorable action, in which the French had three capital ſhips deſtroyed, two ſunk with one thouſand ſix hundred on-board, and one taken. Beſides the ſevere loſs ſuſtained by theſe ſhips, thoſe that eſcaped up the river were ſo much damaged, that they were ſuppoſed to be rendered unfit for ſervice, whilſt all their guns were loſt for ever. Thus was the long threatened invaſion, which was to repair the loſſes of the French in every part of the world, rendered impracticable, and their national greatneſs annihilated. The behaviour of the Engliſh captains and ſeamen on this perilous ſervice, was ſuch as added glory to the Britiſh arms, whilſt it brought ſecurity to their country.

Sir Edward Hawke was, perhaps, the only commander that had been in the ſervice of England ſince the days of Blake, that would have engaged the French under the circumſtances of ſituation and weather in which he then was. If his proceedings border on raſhneſs, they ought nevertheleſs to excite admiration unallayed by cenſure. There was indeed ſomething ſo bold and daring in his conduct, that paſt times may be ſearched into in vain, to produce a like inſtance of heroiſm in a large fleet; but when thoſe circumſtances which particularly diſtinguiſhed this glorious atchievement are laid out of the account, a parallel may then be drawn between this engagement and that off La Hogue in 1692. Each engagement happened off the French coaſt, and within ſight of numerous ſpectators on ſhore; the province of Bretagne was now witneſs to a national diſgrace, as that of Normandy was ſixty-ſeven years before. If Hawke fought the French on the moſt boiſterous ſea in the world when it was agitated by a tempeſt, Ruſſel braved both winds and waves to form a junction of all his ſhips, by which daring conduct he paved the way for the victory which followed. The commanders in chief of the French fleets in both engagements, were onboard a ſhip named Le Soleil Royal; each of theſe ſhips engaged the Engliſh admiral, was run aſhore by the orders of her commander, and was afterwards burnt. The Engliſh commanders in chief in both actions, afterwards received the dignity of a peerage, and preſided at the board of admiralty.

The loſs of ſhips was not the only one which the French ſuſtained in this action; the conduct of their admiral ſullied their national character for gallant bravery, which had generally remained bright in the midſt of defeats. Had Conflans, when he commanded one-and-twenty ſhips of the line, behaved with equal firmneſs to La Clue when commanding only ſeven, conſidering his local advantages, and his trifling inferiority in force, he might probably have made the conteſt a doubtful one; but the genius of France in maritime affairs has ever crouched to the inherent ſuperiority of Britons. What the French admiral did not do in the fight, he boaſted to have done, in the letter which he wrote to the miniſter of the marine department, and which was publiſhed at Paris.

Having now gone over the more important naval occurrences for the year 1759, in three of the quarters of the world, we ſhall give an account of the moſt remarkable engagements which happened to, and captures which were made by, frigates and ſmall ſhips.

In the month of February, Captain Parker, of the Montague, engaged a French privateer belonging to Granville, called the Marquis de Marigny, mounting twenty-ſix ſix-pounders, and having one hundred and ninety-four men on-board; and a fortnight after, he made prize of a ſmall armed veſſel from Dunkirk, of eight ſix-pounders and ſixty men.—Captain Graves of the Unicorn, alſo took about the ſame time a privateer of St. Malo, carrying twenty-two guns and two hundred and two men.—In the ſame month, Captain Hood of the Veſtal, a frigate of thirty-two guns, fell in with the Bellona, a French frigate of about the ſame force, with diſpatches from Martinico to the French court, commanded by the Count de Beauhonoire. Captain Hood advanced within half muſket-ſhot of the enemy, and then poured in a broadſide, which was immediately anſwered. The engagement was then maintained with great vigour on both ſides for the ſpace of four hours, when the Bellona ſtruck, after having loſt all her maſts and rigging. The lieutenant, who took poſſeſſion of the prize, found thirty dead upon the deck, and ten or a dozen had been thrown overboard.—On the 15th of March, the Æolus, Captain Elliot, took a French frigate called La Mignone, commanded by the Chevalier de Tranſanville. Her captain and ſeventy of her men were killed; the ſecond captain's thigh ſhot off, and about twenty-five wounded; on board the Æolus only two men were wounded.—On the 28th of the ſame month, the Southampton and Melampe frigates, commanded by the Captains Gilchriſt and Hotham, fell in with the Danaë, a French ſhip of forty guns, and three hundred and thirty men. Captain Hotham's ſhip, which firſt engaged her, was no more than half her force; notwithſtanding which, he maintained the fight with great bravery, until the Southampton could come to his aſſiſtance. As they fought in the dark, Captain Gilchriſt was obliged to be by, as he could not diſtinguiſh his friend from his foe; but at dawn of day he bore down upon the Danaë with his uſual impetuoſity, and ſoon compelled her to ſtrike. Near forty of her crew were killed, and many wounded. The Southampton had one man killed and eight wounded; among the latter was the gallant Captain Gilchriſt, who was ſhot through the right ſhoulder with a pound ball, which, though it did not deprive him of life, yet rendered him incapable of future ſervice. The Melampe had eight men killed, and twenty wounded.—On the 4th of April, the Honourable Captain Barrington, in a ſixty-gun ſhip named the Achilles, cruiſing in lat. 44. 57. ſixty leagues to the weſtward of Cape Finiſterre, engaged a French ſhip of equal force, called Le Comte de St. Florentin, commanded by the Sieur de Montay, bound from St. Domingo to Rochfort. They fought for two hours with great reſolution, but at length the firmneſs and dexterity of the Engliſh prevailed. One hundred and ſixteen were either killed or wounded on-board the French ſhip; among the latter was the captain, who received a muſket-ball in his body, of which wound he died two days after. His ſhip was with difficulty brought into Falmouth from the damage ſhe had ſuſtained. Captain Barrington obtained the victory at the expence of two men killed and twenty-three wounded, and all his rigging.—On the 27th of April, Captain Faulkner, in the Windſor of ſixty guns, cruiſing to the weſtward, diſcovered four large ſhips to the leeward, which being chaſed, drew up in a line of battle ahead. The Windſor engaged the ſternmoſt, which ſuſtained his fire for about an hour; when, the other three bearing away with all the ſail they could carry, ſhe ſtruck her colours, and was carried into Liſbon. She proved to be the Duc de Chartres, pierced for ſixty guns, but at that time carrying only twenty-four twelve-pounders, and two hundred and ninety-four men, twenty-eight of whom were killed, and eighteen wounded. The other three ſhips were of ſeventy, fifty-four, and twenty-four, guns, armed as the former. They were all loaded with gunpowder and naval ſtores, bound for Pondicherry on account of the French Eaſt-India Company.—On the 16th of July, the Minerva frigate brought into Plymouth five French barks, laden with gunpowder and ball, taken by the Pallas frigate off Breſt, although under a battery, and protected by a battalion of the Iriſh brigades, who fired very briſkly on the boats as they cut them out. Captain Hervey of the Monmouth, to whom the blockade of Breſt harbour was committed, behaved with great vigilance and intrepidity on this occaſion.—In the beginning of October, the Hercules of ſeventy-four guns, Captain Porter, whilſt cruiſing in the chops of the channel, deſcried a large ſhip to windward, which he bore down upon, and found to be a French ſhip of his own force, which not ſeeming to ſhun an engagement, lay to, and plied her guns briſkly. In a little time the Hercules, having loſt her top-maſt, and all her rigging being ſhot away, the enemy, growing weary of the conteſt, took advantage of her ſituation, and bore away. Captain Porter was wounded in the head by a grape-ſhot, and loſt the uſe of one leg in the engagement. The French ſhip was ſuppoſed to be the Floriſſant, that had before fought the Buckingham in the Weſt-Indies.

The Dutch, during the commotions which ſhook the ſtates around her, availed themſelves of the ſtate of neutrality, in which their republic reſted. But it was a neutrality little reſpected, and in itſelf little reſpectable. Divided in her councils, attentive only to private intereſts, ſhe diſguſted the Engliſh, and neither pleaſed nor ſerved the French. Some of the ſubjects of that republic had carried on the trade of France in Dutch bottoms, which expoſed them to the danger of being captured by Engliſh cruiſers; and in fact many were taken, brought into Engliſh ports, and condemned as lawful prizes. Such checks on the rapacity of the Hollanders, occaſioned them to make loud complaints, and ſpirited remonſtrances were preſented to the Britiſh court. Inſtead of the reſtitution which was applied for, the complainants were reminded of their violation of the neutrality they profeſſed, by furniſhing the enemy with ſuch articles of merchandize as by the eſtabliſhed laws of nations where prohibited to be conveyed in ſuch circumſtances. The Dutch were not ſilenced by this rejection of their claims, and the altercation was drawn out into length. But this kind of contraband trade became inconſiderable by ſome of the French colonies being reduced, and the trade to the others becoming too trivial and too hazardous to be carried on any longer with any proſpect of advantage.

The devaſtations on the continent ſtill continued, and human miſery was widely ſpread; whilſt thoſe parts of Europe which were not made the ſeats of war, ſcarcely knew how to commiſerate the ſufferings of their ſpecies, dazzled as they were with the luſtre of military exploits.

The French had ſeized on Frankfort by an act of violence on the liberties of the empire; this ſecured to them the courſes of the Maine and the Rhine; of this advantageous ſituation Prince Ferdinand in vain attempted to diſpoſſeſs them. This produced the action at Burgen; and, by failing therein, the allied army was obliged to retreat, ſo that the French poſſeſſed themſelves of Heſſe and the biſhopric of Paderborn. Whilſt their grand army, under Marſhal de Contades, puſhed the allies on that ſide, M. d'Armentieres was poſted at Weſel, and in their advance from thence, they ſurprized Ritberg and took Minden by aſſault, making the garriſon, of 1500 men, priſoners of war; and by this ſucceſs they became poſſeſſed of immenſe magazines. Munſter was taken on the 25th of July, and a garriſon of four thouſand men made priſoners.

The French general, advancing to Minden, encamped in a ſtrong ſituation; having that town on his right, a ſteep hill on his left, a moraſs in front, and a rivulet in rear. The Duke de Broglio commanded a ſeparate body between Hanſbergen and Minden, on the other ſide of the Weſer; and a third, under the Duke de Briſſac, conſiſting of eight thouſand men, occupied a ſtrong poſt by the village of Coveldt, to facilitate the route of the convoys from Paderborn. Prince Ferdinand, having moved his camp from Soltznau to Peterſhagen, detached the Hereditary Prince on the 28th of July to Lubeke, from whence he drove the enemy, and proceeding to Rimſel, was joined by Major-general Dreves, who had retaken Oſnabruck, and cleared all that neigbourhood of the enemy's parties: then he advanced towards Hervorden, and fixed his quarters at Kirchlinneger, to hamper the enemy's convoys from Paderborn. During theſe tranſactions, Prince Ferdinand marched with the allied army in three columns from Peterſhagen to Hille, where it encamped, having a moraſs on the right, the village of Fredewalde on the left, and in front thoſe of Northemmern and Holtzenhauſen. Fifteen battalions and nineteen ſquadrons, with a brigade of heavy artillery, were left under the command of General Wangenheim, on the left, behind the village of Dodenhauſen, which was fortified with ſome redoubts, defended by two battalions. Colonel Luckner, with the Hanoverian huſſars, and a brigade of hunters, ſuſtained by two battalions of grenadiers, was poſted between Buckebourg and the Weſer, to obſerve the body of troops commanded by the Duke de Broglio on the other ſide of the river.

On the laſt day of July the Marſhal de Contades, reſolving to attack the allied army, ordered the corps of Broglio to repaſs the river; and, advancing in eight columns, about midnight, paſſed the rivulet of Barta, that runs along the moraſs, and falls into the Weſer at Minden. At day-break he formed his army in order of battle; part of it fronting the corps of General Wangenheim at Dodenhauſen, and part of it facing Hille; the two wings conſiſting of infantry, and the cavalry being ſtationed in the centre. At three in the morning the enemy began to cannonade the prince's quarters at Hille, from a battery of ſix cannon, which they had raiſed in the preceding evening on the dike of Eickhorſt. This was probably the firſt intimation he received of their intention. He forthwith cauſed two pieces of artillery to be conveyed to Hille; and ordered the officer of the piquet-guard poſted there to defend himſelf to the laſt extremity: at the ſame time he ſent orders to General Gieſen, who occupied Lubeke, to attack the enemy's poſt at Eickhorſt; and this ſervice was ſucceſsfully performed. The Prince of Anhalt, lieutenant-general for the day, took poſſeſſion with the reſt of the piquets of the village of Halen, where Prince Ferdinand reſolved to ſupport his right. It was already in the hands of the enemy, but they ſoon abandoned it with precipitation. The allied army, being put in motion, advanced in eight columns, and occupied the ground between Halen and Hemmern, while General Wangenheim's corps filled up the ſpace between this laſt village and Dodenhauſen. The enemy made their principal effort on the left, intending to force the infantry of Wangenheim's corps, and penetrate between it and the body of the allied army. For this purpoſe the Duke de Broglio attacked them with great fury; but was ſeverely checked by a battery of thirty cannon, prepared for his reception by Count Buckebourg, grand maſter of the artillery, and ſerved with admirable effect, under his own eye and direction. About five in the morning, Auguſt 1, 1759, both armies cannonaded each other; at ſix the fire of muſquetry began with great vivacity; and the action became very hot towards the right, where ſix regiments of Engliſh infantry, and two battalions of Hanoverian guards, not only bore the whole brunt of the French carabineers and gendarmerie, but abſolutely broke every body of horſe and foot that advanced to attack them on the left and in the centre. The Heſſian cavalry, with ſome regiments of Holſtein, Pruſſian, and Hanoverian dragoons, poſted on the left, performed good ſervice. The cavalry on the right had no opportunity of engaging. They conſiſted of the Britiſh and Hanoverian horſe, commanded by Lord George Sackville, whoſe ſecond was the Marquis of Granby. Orders were ſent, during the action, to bring them up; but whether theſe orders were contradictory, unintelligible, or imperfectly executed, they did not arrive in time to have any ſhare in the action. Be that as it will, the enemy were repulſed in all their attacks with conſiderable loſs: at length they gave way in every part; and about noon, abandoning the field of battle, were purſued to the ramparts of Minden. In this action they loſt a great number of men, with forty-three large cannon, and many colours and ſtandards; whereas the loſs of the allies was very inconſiderable, as it chiefly fell upon a few regiments of Britiſh infantry, commanded by the Major-generals Waldegrave and Kingſley. To the extraordinary proweſs of theſe gallant brigades, and the fire of the Britiſh artillery, which was admirably ſerved by the Captains Philips, Macbean, Drummond, and Foy, the victory was in a great meaſure aſcribed. The ſame night the enemy paſſed the Weſer, and burned the bridges over that river. Next day the garriſon of Minden ſurrendered at diſcretion; and here the victors found a great number of French officers wounded.

At firſt the Marſhal de Contades ſeemed inclined to retreat through the defiles of Wittekendſtein, to Paderborn; but he was fain to change his reſolution, in conſequence of his having received advice, that on the very day of his own defeat the Duke de Briſſac was vanquiſhed by the hereditary prince in the neighbourhood of Coveldt, ſo that the paſſage of the mountains was rendered impracticable.

After the battle of Minden, Colonel Freytag, at the head of the light troops, took, in the neighbourhood of Detmold, all the equipage of the Marſhal de Contades, the Prince of Condé, and the Duke de Briſſac, with part of their military cheſt and chancery, containing papers of the utmoſt conſequence.

Prince Ferdinand, having garriſoned Minden, marched to Hervorden; and the hereditary prince paſſed the Weſer at Hamelen, in order to purſue the enemy, who retreated to Caſſel, and from thence by the way of Marpurg, as far as Gieſſen. In a word, they were continually haraſſed by that enterpriſing prince, who ſeized every opportunity of making an impreſſion upon their army; took the greateſt part of their baggage; and compelled them to abandon every place they poſſeſſed in Weſtphalia. The number of his priſoners amounted to fifteen hundred men, beſides the garriſon left at Caſſel, which ſurrendered at diſcretion. He likewiſe ſurprized a whole battalion, and defeated a conſiderable detachment under the command of M. d'Armentieres. In the mean time, the allied army advanced in regular marches; and Prince Ferdinand, having taken poſſeſſion of Caſſel, detached General Imhoff, with a body of troops, to reduce the city of Munſter, which he accordingly began to bombard and cannonade: but d'Armentieres, being joined by a freſh body of troops, from the

Lower Rhine, advanced to its relief, and compelled Imhoff to raiſe the ſiege. It was not long, however, before this general was alſo reinforced; then he meaſured back his march to Munſter, and the French commander withdrew in his turn. The place was immediately ſhut up by a cloſe blockade; which, however, did not prevent the introduction of ſupplies. The city of Munſter being an object of importance, was diſputed with great obſtinacy. Armentieres received reinforcements, and the body commanded by Imhoff was occaſionally augmented; but the ſiege was not formally undertaken till November, when ſome heavy artillery being brought from England, the place was regularly inveſted, and the operations carried on with ſuch vigour, that in a few days the city ſurrendered on capitulation.

The operations of the Pruſſian armies began early in the ſpring. Towards the latter end of February, the Pruſſian general Wobers marched into Poland, and, after chaſing away the troops that oppoſed his progreſs, deſtroyed ſeveral immenſe magazines which had been formed for the ſubſiſtence of the Ruſſian army; one of theſe was ſaid to be ſufficient for the ſubſiſtence of fifty thouſand men for three months. Prince Henry entered Bohemia on the 15th of April, and drove the enemy before him, obliging the Auſtrians to ſet fire to the magazines which they had collected in thoſe parts, and from which their ſubſiſtence was principally to be drawn during the campaign. The army of the empire retreated as the Pruſſians advanced, and abandoned the rich biſhoprics of Banberg and Wurtſburg to contributions. Prince Henry drove the Imperialiſts as far as Nuremberg.

Count Soltikoff commanded the Ruſſian army; to oppoſe whom Count Dohna was at the head of an army of Pruſſians; but, the conduct of that general being diſpleaſing to the king his maſter, he threw up his command, and General Wedel was appointed in his place, who received poſitive orders to fight the enemy at all events. The Ruſſian army amounted to ſeventy thouſand men; the Pruſſians numbered only thirty thouſand; notwithſtanding this diſparity, Wedel, in compliance with his maſter's commands, reſolved to attack them at Zulichau on the confines of Sileſia. In making this attack, the Pruſſians had a bridge to paſs, and ſuch a narrow defile, that ſcarcely a third of a battalion could march in front. The ground was ſuch, that the cavalry could not ſupport their infantry; yet notwithſtanding all theſe difficulties, the engagement was long and reſolute; but at length the aſſailants were repulſed, with a loſs of four thouſand ſeven hundred killed or priſoners, and three thouſand wounded. Croſſen and Frankfort on the Oder, fell into the hands of the Ruſſians, in conſequence of their ſucceſs.

The King of Pruſſia, to repair this miſcarriage, drafted off ten thouſand of his beſt troops, at the head of which he marched in perſon to join his broken army under Wedel, whilſt Prince Henry remained with the army oppoſed to Count Daun, and was ſo deeply entrenched as to brave all attempts of the enemy. This movement of the Pruſſian monarch was no ſooner made, than it was known to the Auſtrian general, who immediately ſelected ten thouſand Hungarian horſe and eight thouſand foot, which he ſent under the command of General Lauden to reinforce the Ruſſians, whilſt the King of Pruſſia was utterly unable to prevent the junction of theſe two armies, which now became ninety thouſand ſtrong. The king's army, when he had called in ſome bodies of troops ſtationed in Saxony, amounted to fifty thouſand. The affairs of the Pruſſian monarch were now brought to ſo deſperate a criſis, that a conduct, which in other circumſtances would have been the height of temerity, became the only viſible means of retrieving his affairs.

On the 12th of Auguſt, at two o'clock in the morning, the Pruſſians attacked the left wing of the Ruſſian army, and drove them from poſt to poſt with great ſlaughter, poſſeſſed themſelves of ſeventy-two pieces of cannon, and advanced to the village of Cunnerſdorf, where they drove them from their redoubts with rapid ſucceſs. So proſperous a beginning ſeemed to promiſe a moſt deciſive concluſion: the king ſent off an expreſs to Berlin to ſignify his ſucceſs, and therein confidently anticipated the completion of his hopes. The great defect in the military character of the King of Pruſſia, ever was, the attempting too much; he wanted only to diſtinguiſh between the difficult and impracticable, to make him the greateſt general, either of ancient or modern times. His troops had now been ſpent with fatigue during an action of ſix hours, and they were expoſed to the ſcorching rays of a meridian ſun, in one of the warmeſt days ever felt. That part of the Ruſſian army, which yet remained to be attacked was quite freſh, Lauden and his Auſtrians had not fought; they together compoſed an army ſcarcely inferior to the Pruſſians in number.

It was in vain that the generals remonſtrated with their ſovereign, and entreated him to reſt ſatisfied with the glorious advantages which he had already gained; the Pruſſian monarch diſdained to accept a victory incomplete, although it would infallibly have obliged his enemies to retire into Poland, and ſecured to his ſubjects repoſe for the remainder of the campaign. He thought he ſaw the deciſive moment arrived which was to rid him for ever of theſe northern ſpoilers, and enable him to make head againſt his other foes on more equal terms. Twice the Pruſſian infantry were led on to diſpoſſeſs the Ruſſians from a ſtation rendered ſtrong both by nature and art; they were as often repulſed with ſlaughter: the cavalry then were brought up, but their efforts were equally ineffectual. It was then their enemies' time to act on the offenſive. The Auſtrian cavalry and a numerous body of Ruſſians bore down impetuouſly on the Pruſſians, now ſpent by fatigue, waſted by three deſtructive aſſaults, and their ardour extinguiſhed. The conflict was too unequal to continue long; the whole Pruſſian army, which an hour or two before were victorious and irreſiſtible, now fled in confuſion. Their king, by expoſing himſelf in the hotteſt part of the battle, ſeemed to court that death which would cloſe his eyes on the ſight of his flying battalions. Two horſes were killed under him, and ſeveral balls paſſed through his clothes. Night befriended the vanquiſhed troops; but twenty thouſand men were either killed, wounded, or made priſoners, and all the artillery taken. On the ſide of the confederate army, ten thouſand men were ſuppoſed to have fallen.

The news of this fatal overthrow followed cloſe on the premature advice of a victory: the king re-paſſed the Oder, and by his judicious motions prevented the Ruſſians from poſſeſſing themſelves of Berlin. Then it was that the deſtruction of their magazines in the early part of the campaign was ſeverely felt; and, to the aſtoniſhment of all the world, the ſuperior, victorious, and united, army of Auſtrians and Ruſſians, acted on the defenſive, and were curbed in all their motions, and fruſtrated in all their deſigns, by the inferior, the beaten, and divided, Pruſſians. Nothing ever ſhewed the genius of the King of Pruſſia more fully, than his conduct after the battle of Cunnerſdorf, by which, before the cloſe of the campaign, the Ruſſians were obliged to return to Poland.

The army under Prince Henry now maintained no communication with that under the King of Pruſſia; but by one of the moſt ſpirited and ſkilful marches that was ever made by an army, the prince gained an advantageous ſituation in Saxony, by croſſing the Elbe near Torgau, and hereby opened a communication with the king his brother, who now endeavoured, by poſſeſſing himſelf of all the paſſes that opened a communication with Bohemia, to cut off from M. Daun the means of receiving ſupplies, and thereby oblige him, either to retire, or fight on diſadvantageous terms. General Finck, with a ſtrong corps, was ſent on this buſineſs; but the cautious Daun, aware of theſe deſigns, took his meaſures ſo judiciouſly, that he ſurrounded this detachment, and by leaving them no chance of ſucceſsfully fighting their way through the Auſtrian army, obliged the Pruſſian general to ſurrender himſelf and his whole army, amounting at the loweſt computation to twelve thouſand men, priſoners of war.

On the 26th of November, another body of Pruſſians under General Dureeke, was a few days after defeated, and three thouſand either killed or made priſoners; among the latter was the general himſelf.

The ſeverity of a moſt rigorous winter could not put a ſtop to the operations of the contending armies. Munſter having at length ſurrendered to the allies, and the hereditary prince having gained ſeveral advantages at the head of choſen bodies of troops, the Prince of Brunſwick ventured at length to ſend him at the head of twelve thouſand men to reinforce the King of Pruſſia. This active general performed a march of three hundred miles in fifteen days, and ſafely joined the Pruſſian army, but nothing of moment was afterwards attempted, although it was not until the end of December that the armies retired into winter-quarters.

We ſhall conclude the remarkable incidents of this year with a detail of an event equally ſurpriſing and deplorable.—A ſloop called the Dolphin, bound from the Canaries to New York, met with ſuch unfavourable weather, that ſhe was detained one hundred and ſixty-five days in the paſſage, and the proviſion of the ſhip was altogether expended before the firſt fifty days were elapſed. The wretched crew had devoured their dog, cat, and all their ſhoes on-board: at length, being reduced to the utmoſt extremity, they agreed to caſt lots for their lives, that the body of him upon whom the lot ſhould fall, might ſerve for ſome time to ſupport the ſurvivors. The wretched victim was one Antonio Galatia, a Spaniſh gentleman and paſſenger. Him they ſhot with a muſquet; and having cut off his head, threw it overboard; but the entrails, and the reſt of the carcaſe, they greedily devoured. This horrid banquet having, as it were, fleſhed the famiſhed crew, they began to talk of another ſacrifice, from which, however, they were diverted by the influence and remonſtrances of their captain, who prevailed upon them to be ſatisfied with a miſerable allowance to each per diem, cut from a pair of leather breeches found in the cabin. Upon this calamitous pittance, reinforced with the graſs which grew plentifully upon the deck, theſe poor objects made ſhift to ſubſiſt for twenty days, at the expiration of which, they were relieved, and taken on-board one Captain Bradſhaw, who chanced to fall in with them at ſea. By this time the whole crew, conſiſting of ſeven men, were ſo ſqualid and emaciated, as to exhibit an appearance at once piteous and terrible; and ſo reduced in point of ſtrength, that it was found neceſſary to uſe ropes and tackle for hoiſting them from one ſhip to the other. The circumſtance of the lot falling upon the Spaniard, who was the only foreigner on-board, encourages a ſuſpicion that foul play was offered to this unfortunate ſtranger; but the moſt remarkable part of this whole incident is, that the maſter and crew could not contrive ſome ſort of tackle to catch fiſh, with which the ſea every where abounds, and which, no doubt, might be caught with the help of a little ingenuity. If implements of this kind were provided in every ſhip, they would probably prevent all thoſe tragical events at ſea, that are occaſioned by famine.

The kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia proffered peace to the monarch of France, who had this year been reduced to the neceſſity of ſtopping payment for ſeveral of the public debts; notwithſtanding which, the miniſters of Louis XV. as they did not expect, from their ſituation, very advantageous or honourable terms, reſolved to act in one inſtance the Roman part, and ſtill hold out, determined to hazard the laſt extremities; perhaps hoping ſomething favourable from the fortune of their allies, ſince their own had deſerted them; and reſolving to contract their plan, and make one ſtrong effort in one part, rather than unprofitably to waſte their ſtrength upon inferior objects. This effort could be made with any proſpect of ſucceſs only in Germany; but the ſupplies neceſſary for this great charge, were difficult to a nation whoſe trade was wholly deſtroyed. On this occaſion the king threw his own plate into the public ſtock; at the ſame time, inviting his ſubjects to contribute in the ſame manner from their private fortunes to the neceſſities of the ſtate. Although ſeveral of the nobility, and many churches and convents, ſent in their plate, there was nevertheleſs a general backwardneſs to adopt this method of ſupplying the exigencies of government, and to truſt the public with ſo conſiderable a part of their ſubſtance, at the inſtant when they ſaw it ſo notoriouſly break its faith in other particulars.

The parliament aſſembled on the 13th of November, 1759, when the ſeſſion was opened by commiſſion. The ſpeech delivered upon this occaſion, after enumerating the many and ſignal ſucceſſes which had attended his majeſty's arms in all quarters of the world, proceeded to declare, that as the King of Great-Britain did not enter into this war from views of ambition, ſo he did not wiſh to continue it from motives of reſentment; that the deſire of his heart was to ſee a ſtop put to the effuſion of chriſtian blood; that whenever ſuch terms of peace could be eſtabliſhed, as ſhould be juſt and honourable for his majeſty and his allies, and by procuring ſuch advantages as from the ſucceſſes of his majeſty's arms might in reaſon and equity be expected, ſhall bring along with them full ſecurity for the future, his majeſty would rejoice to ſee the repoſe of Europe reſtored on ſuch ſolid and durable foundations; and his faithful ſubjects, to whoſe liberal ſupport, and unſhaken firmneſs, his majeſty owed ſo much, happy in the enjoyment of the bleſſings of peace and tranquillity; but, in order to this great and deſirable end, it was neceſſary to make ample proviſion for carrying on the war, in all parts, with the utmoſt vigour.

Both houſes concurred cheerfully in the meaſures adopted by the miniſtry, and in their addreſſes ſeemed to vie with each other in their expreſſions of attachment and complacency. The amount of the grants in this ſeſſion, amounted to the unprecedented ſum of 15,503,563l. When the enormous expences of the war were objected to, and cenſured as profuſion, the miniſter replied with Philip of Macedon, "Victory is to be purchaſed by money, and money muſt not be ſpared when at the expence of victory."

The moſt conſiderable naval occurrence in the year 1760, is the expedition undertaken by Thurot from the harbour of Dunkirk, whoſe departure we have already taken notice of. When this adventurer had got out to ſea, he ſhaped his courſe for Gottenburgh in Sweden, from whence he proceeded to Bergen in Norway. His inſtructions were to make occaſional deſcents upon the coaſt of Ireland, and, by dividing the troops, and diſtracting the attention of the government in that kingdom, to facilitate the enterprize of M. de Conflans, the fate of which we have already narrated. The original armament of Thurot conſiſted of five ſhips, one of which, called the Marſhal de Belleiſle, was mounted with forty-four guns; the Begon, the Blond, the Terpſichore, had thirty guns each, and the Marante carried twenty-four. The number of ſoldiers put on-board this little fleet, did not exceed twelve hundred and ſeventy, excluſive of mariners to the number of ſeven hundred; but two hundred of the troops were ſent ſick on ſhore, before the armament ſailed from Dunkirk; and in their voyage between Gottenburg and Bergen they loſt company of the Begon, during a violent ſtorm. The ſeverity of the weather detained them nineteen days at Bergen, at the expiration of which they ſet ſail for the weſtern iſlands of Scotland, and diſcovered the northern part of Ireland in the latter end of January. The intention of Thurot was to make a deſcent about Derry; but before this deſign could be executed, the weather growing tempeſtuous, and the wind blowing off ſhore, they were driven out to ſea, and, in the night, loſt ſight of the Marante, which never joined them afterwards. After having been tempeſt-beaten for ſome time, and expoſed to a very ſcanty allowance of proviſion, the officers requeſted of Thurot, that he would return to France, leſt they ſhould all periſh by famine; but he lent a deaf ear to this propoſal, and frankly told them he could not return to France, without having ſtruck ſome ſtroke for the ſervice of his country. Nevertheleſs, in hope of meeting with ſome refreſhment, he ſteered to the iſland of Iſla, where the troops were landed, and here they found black cattle, and a ſmall ſupply of oatmeal, for which they paid a reaſonable price; and it muſt be owned, Thurot himſelf behaved with great moderation and generoſity.

While this ſpirited adventurer ſtruggled with theſe wants and difficulties, his arrival in thoſe ſeas filled the whole kingdom with alarm. Bodies of regular troops and militia were poſted along the coaſts of Ireland and Scotland; and beſides the ſquadron of Commodore Boys, who ſailed to the northward on purpoſe to purſue the enemy, other ſhips of war were ordered to ſcour the Briſtol channel, and cruiſe between Scotland and Ireland. The weather no ſooner permitted

Thurot to purſue his deſtination, than he ſailed from Iſla to the bay of Carrickfergus in Ireland, and made all the neceſſary preparations for a deſcent; which was accordingly effected, with ſix hundred men, on the 21ſt of February. Lieutenant-colonel Jennings, who commanded four companies of raw undiſciplined men at Carrickfergus, having received information that three ſhips had anchored about two miles and a half from the caſtle, which was ruinous and defenceleſs, immediately detached a party to make obſervations, and ordered the French priſoners there confined, to be removed to Belfaſt. Meanwhile, the enemy landing without oppoſition, advanced towards the town, which they found as well guarded as the nature of the place, which was entirely open, and the circumſtances of the Engliſh commander, would allow. A regular attack was carried on, and a ſpirited defence made, until the ammunition of the Engliſh failed: then Colonel Jennings retired in order to the caſtle, which, however, was in all reſpects untenable; for, beſides a breach in the wall near fifty feet wide, they found themſelves deſtitute of proviſion and ammunition. Nevertheleſs, they repulſed the aſſailants in their firſt attack, even after the gate was burſt open, and ſupplied the want of ſhot with ſtones and rubbiſh. At length, the colonel and his troops were obliged to ſurrender, on condition that they ſhould not be ſent priſoners to France, but be ranſomed by ſending thither an equal number of French priſoners from Great Britain or Ireland: that the caſtle ſhould not be demoliſhed, nor the town of Carrickfergus plundered or burned, on condition that the mayor and corporation ſhould furniſh the French troops with neceſſary proviſions. The enemy, after this exploit, did not preſume to advance farther into the country; a ſtep which indeed they could not have taken with any regard to their own ſafety: for by this time a conſiderable body of regular troops was aſſembled; and the people of the country manifeſted a laudable ſpirit of loyalty and reſolution, crowding in great numbers to Belfaſt, to offer their ſervice againſt the invaders. Theſe circumſtances, to which the enemy were no ſtrangers, and the defeat of Conſlans, which they had alſo learned, obliged them to quit their conqueſt, and re-embark with ſome precipitation, after having laid Carrickfergus under moderate contribution.

The fate they eſcaped on ſhore, they ſoon met with at ſea. Captain John Elliot, who commanded three frigates at Kinſale, and had in the courſe of this war more than once already diſtinguiſhed himſelf, even in his early youth, by extraordinary acts of valour, was informed by a diſpatch from the Duke of Bedford, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, that three of the enemy's ſhips lay at anchor in the bay of Carrickfergus; and thither he immediately ſhaped his courſe in the ſhip Æolus, accompanied by the Pallas and Brilliant, under the command of the captains Clements and Logie. On the 28th of February they deſcried the enemy, and gave chaſe, in ſight of the Iſle of Man; and about nine in the morning, Captain Elliot, in his own ſhip, engaged the Belleiſle, commanded by Thurot, although conſiderably his ſuperior in ſtrength of men, number of guns, and weight of metal. In a few minutes his conſorts were alſo engaged with the other two ſhips of the enemy. After a warm action, maintained with great ſpirit on all ſides for an hour and a half, Captain Elliot's lieutenant boarded the Belleiſle, and, ſtriking her colours with his own hand, the commander ſubmitted: his example was immediately followed by the other French captains; and the Engliſh commodore, taking poſſeſſion of his prizes, conveyed them into the bay of Ramſay in the Iſle of Man, that their damage might be repaired. Though the Belleiſle was very leaky, and had loſt her boltſprit, mizen maſt, and main-yard, in all probability the victory would have remained longer in ſuſpenſe if the gallant Thurot

rot had not fallen during the action. The victor had not even the conſolation to perform the laſt offices to his brave enemy; for his body was thrown into the ſea by his own people in the hurry of the engagement. The loſs on the ſide of the Engliſh did not exceed forty men killed and wounded; whereas above three hundred of the enemy were ſlain or diſabled. The ſervice performed on this occaſion was deemed ſo eſſential to the peace and commerce of Ireland, that the thanks of the houſe of commons in that kingdom were voted to the conquerors of Thurot, as well as to Lieutenant-colonel Jennings, for his ſpirited behaviour at Carrickfergus; and the freedom of the city of Cork was preſented in ſilver boxes to the captains Elliot, Clements, and Logie. The name of Thurot was become terrible to all the trading ſeaports of Britain and Ireland; and therefore the defeat and capture of his ſquadron, were celebrated with as hearty rejoicings as the moſt important victory could have produced.

It was in America that the deciſive ſtroke was ſtruck, that totally ſubdued the French power there. General Amherſt, who was at the head of a powerful army, had wintered at New York, intending to aſſemble his troops in the ſpring, and undertake the reduction of the weſtern parts of Canada, of which Montreal was the only place of ſtrength. A ſquadron of men of war, under the command of Lord Colville, wintered at Halifax, which was deſtined to proceed up the river St. Laurence, as ſoon as it ſhould become navigable. General Murray, who commanded at Quebec, laboured with indefatigable induſtry to repair the injuries which that city had ſuſtained during the late ſiege, and by additional works, to enable his ſcanty garriſon to defend the place againſt any attacks that might be made upon them by the French, who had collected all their ſtrength, and were likely to endeavour the recovery of that capital. The ſeverity of the climate, and want of vegetables and freſh proviſions,

ſions, proved very deſtructive to the Britiſh ſoldiery; the ſcurvy made ſuch devaſtation among them, that by the end of April, 1760, one fifth part of the garriſon actually died, and an equal number were incapable of doing duty.

The French knew the ſtate of tbe garriſon in Quebec; and, as ſoon as the ſeaſon would permit of taking the field, the Chevalier Levi, who commanded under M. Vandreuil, aſſembled an army, compoſed of regulars and militia, amounting to eleven thouſand men, beſides three thouſand Indians, with a deſign of recovering that city; at the ſame time four frigates, which lay at Montreal, proceeded down the river to co-operate with the troops.

As ſoon as General Murray had advice of this army being in motion, not chooſing to remain with his garriſon within the city, he determined on intrenching his troops on the heights of Abraham; but this deſign he ſoon after abandoned, and returned to Quebec; towards which the French army advanced. This gallant officer, relying on the tried bravery of his troops, who, as he expreſſes himſelf in his diſpatches, *had acquired a habit of beating the French*, and being provided with a fine train of field artillery, reſolved to march out and give the enemy battle. Accordingly, on the 28th of April, he muſtered the whole of his garriſon that were capable of bearing arms, and which did not exceed three thouſand men; and marching them out, formed them on the heights in order of battle, having with him twenty field-pieces. The Engliſh troops attacked the van of the French army with the utmoſt impetuoſity, and forced them to retreat in diſorder; the confuſion was caught by the centre, and the reward of victory ſeemed to await their determined valour: but the conteſt lay between ſuch inequality of numbers, that the fortune of the day was ſoon reverſed. The French general brought up freſh troops continually to ſuſtain his worſted ſquadrons;

drons: their fire was well directed, and did great execution. When by theſe means the progreſs of the Engliſh was checked, M. Levi ordered detachments of his army to wheel off to the right and left, hereby forming a ſemicircle, which threatened to cloſe upon the Britiſh rear. By this time one third of this ſmall army had been either killed or wounded; nothing now remained but to effect a retreat, leſt the whole ſhould be ſurrounded, and the communication with Quebec cut off; this was accompliſhed, but all the cannon was abandoned to the enemy. The French loſt at leaſt two thouſand five hundred men in this action; but, as they conſidered their ſucceſs in it as a prelude to their recovery of Quebec, the price at which it was purchaſed was not regarded. The ſame night they opened trenches before the town; but it was not until the 11th of May that they could bring their batteries to play upon the fortifications. The French were extremely deficient in artillery; the Engliſh mounted a fine train on their ramparts, and their guns were well ſerved. Still, however, the danger to which this important capital lay expoſed was imminent, and its fate ſeemed to hang ſuſpended on the precarious chance of a fleet arriving from Europe; ſhould the ſhips of France have the ſtart of thoſe of Great Britain, the place would be no longer tenable. Indeed every thing was to be hoped from the activity and ſpirit which pervaded each department in England, and the event juſtified ſuch concluſions; for, on the 15th of May, Lord Colville anchored with his fleet off Point Levi, and the next morning, two frigates, under the command of the captains Schomberg and Dean, were ſent to attack the French ſquadron above the town. They executed their commiſſion ſo well, that the enemy fled in the utmoſt hurry and diſorder. The Pomona, one of their frigates, was driven aſhore above Cape Diamond; the Atalanta, the other frigate, ran aſhore, and was burnt at Point Tremble, about ten leagues above the town; and moſt of the other ſhips or veſſels were driven aſhore and effectually deſtroyed.

The night following, the enemy raiſed the ſiege of Quebec precipitately, leaving their cannon, ſmall arms, ſtores, &c. behind them. The Loweſtoff, in purſuit of the enemy, ran upon ſome unknown rocks and was irrecoverably loſt, but the officers and men were ſaved.

This ſtorm being happily diſperſed, the reduction of all Canada became in a manner inevitable, as three Engliſh armies were ſoon after put in motion, to attack, by different routes, thoſe parts of it which ſtill remained to France. General Murray marched at the head of a part of his garriſon to the weſtward; Colonel Haviland ſailed from Crown Point, and took poſſeſſion of Iſle au Noix, which the French had abandoned, and thence he was directed to proceed to Montreal, whilſt General Amherſt led the main army, conſiſting of ten thouſand men, by the way of Lake Ontario, and croſſing the river St. Laurence, propoſed to enter Canada ſtill more to the weſtward. Thus he intended to ſurround the laſt place of importance which the enemy poſſeſſed, and by the motion of the three armies, in three ſuch different tracks, to render it impoſſible for the French to form an effectual oppoſition to any of his corps. The general, however, did not leave New York until the 21ſt of June; and, having accompliſhed his dangerous march in two months and ſeventeen days, his army arrived within ſight of Montreal. Every thing proved propitious, for General Murray landed from Quebec on the ſame day, Sept. 6th, and Colonel Haviland the day after. Monſieur Vandreuil ſeeing himſelf entirely encloſed, and being unable to defend the place, capitulated on the 8th of September. It was agreed that his garriſon ſhould be ſent to France, on condition that they were not to ſerve during the war. The inhabitants were ſecured in their perſons and effects. With ſuch eaſe did General Amherſt complete the conqueſts which the perſeverance and ſkill of the intrepid Wolfe had rendered almoſt impoſſible to miſs of. Thus one man reaps the harveſt which another ſows; and all Canada became ſubject to the crown of Great Britain. This colony had indeed coſt France large ſums of money, and remitted very little; ſhe was now deprived of it, after a hundred years of expence and fruitleſs trouble, for which no compenſation could afterwards be expected.

Whilſt Lord Colville lay with his fleet off Quebec, intelligence was brought to the governor of Louiſbourg, that ſome French ſhips of war and ſtore-ſhips, with troops and ſtores on-board, had put into Chaleur bay, in the gulph of St. Laurence. Hereupon the Hon. Captain Byron in the Fame, with ſome other king's ſhips, went in queſt of them. He found them ſo high up the bay, that the Fame, Repulſe, and Scarborough, with difficulty got up to them; but, on the 8th of July, the whole, conſiſting of three frigates, was deſtroyed, viz. Marchault thirty-two guns, Bienfaiſant twenty-two, and the Marquis de Marloze eighteen, beſides twenty ſchooners, ſloops, and ſmall privateers, with a great quantity of proviſions and ſtores.

The conqueſt of Canada being achieved, the fortifications of Louiſbourg, on the iſland of Cape Breton, were totally raſed, and the ditches filled up. All the artillery, ammunition, and implements of war, were conveyed to Halifax; but the barracks were repaired ſo as to accommodate three hundred men occaſionally, and the hoſpital with the private houſes were left ſtanding.

In the Weſt-Indies, Rear-admiral Holmes commanded the ſhips on the Jamaica ſtation, who receiving advice that five French frigates and a fleet of merchant-ſhips were preparing to ſail from St. Domingo for France, he diſpatched three ſhips in order to intercept them. On the 17th of October, the French fleet appeared in ſight, conſiſting of thirteen ſail. The Engliſh ſhips were, the Lively, Hon. Captain Maitland, of twenty guns and 160 men; Hampſhire, Captain Norbury, fifty guns and 350 men; and Boreas, Captain Uvedale, twenty-eight guns and 170 men. The French frigates were called, the Sirenne, of thirty-two guns and 128 men; Valeur, twenty guns 160 men; Duc de Choiſeul, Prince Edward, thirty-two guns 180 men; and Fleur-de-lis, thirty-two guns 180 men. At twelve at night, the Boreas, being the headmoſt ſhip, got alongſide of the Sirenne, commanded by Commodore M'Cartie. They engaged very ſmartly for twenty-five minutes, when the Sirenne declined the action, ſhot ahead, and endeavoured to get off; and the Boreas, being diſabled in her rigging, could not again cloſe with her till the next day at two in the afternoon, when the action was renewed with great vigour, off the eaſt end of Cuba, and continued till forty minutes after four, when the Sirenne ſtruck. At the time the Boreas firſt engaged the Sirenne, ſhe was to the northward of the Hampſhire and Lively, who were in chace of the other four frigates, which were making the beſt of their way to the ſouthward; but the night being dark and ſqually, they were only able to keep within ſight of them.

The next morning, at day-break, the enemy were about ſix miles ahead of the Lively, ſtanding under all the ſail they could crowd for the weſt end of Tortuga, in order to get into the harbour of Port au Paix. The Lively who made good uſe of her oars, was conſiderably ahead of the Hampſhire, and got up alongſide of the Valeur, the ſternmoſt of the enemy, at half an hour paſt ſeven, when a very ſmart action enſued, and continued for an hour and a half, at which time the Valeur ſtruck.

The Hampſhire kept on after the other three frigates, and the wind freſhening, ſhe gained upon them ſo faſt, that by half an hour after three in the afternoon ſhe got between the Duke de Choiſeul and the Prince Edward, the two headmoſt ſhips, and began to fire on them; but the Duke de Choiſeul having the advantage of the wind, made good her retreat into Port au Paix; the other ran aſhore about two leagues to leeward, where ſhe ſtruck her colours; but, on the Hampſhire's preparing to take poſſeſſion, the enemy ſet her on fire, and ſhe blew up. The next morning the Hampſhire, having the Lively and her prize in company, made ſail towards Freſh-water-bay, which lies a little farther to the leeward of Port au Paix, in order to take or deſtroy the Fleur-de-lis, the ſternmoſt of the three frigates ſhe had chaſed the day before; but, on the Hampſhire's entering the bay, the French ſet her on fire, and ſhe alſo blew up.

Thus was the whole force of this fleet deſtroyed, which proved an unſpeakable loſs to the enemy, and greatly leſſened the ſmall remains of the French navy. The merchantmen eſcaped.

This eſſential ſervice was immediately followed by another, in which the bravery of the officers and ſailors concerned was equally diſtinguiſhed. The Trent and Boreas chaſed eight French privateers, two of which, namely, the Vainqueur of ten guns, ſixteen ſwivels, and ninety men, and the Mackau of ſix ſwivels and fifteen men, had been into ſhoal-water in Cumberland harbour, on the iſland of Cuba. The boats of the Trent and Boreas were manned, under the direction of lieutenants Millar and Stuart, who being rowed up to the Vainqueur, boarded and took poſſeſſion of her under a cloſe fire. The Mackau was taken without any reſiſtance. The boats then proceeded to attack the Gueſpre of eight guns, and eighty-five men, which lay at anchor farther up in the Lagoon; but before they reached her, the enemy ſet her on fire and ſhe was deſtroyed.

Commodore Sir James Douglas, who commanded the ſhips on the Leeward-Iſland ſtation, was equally active in annoying the enemy. On the 9th of Auguſt, Captains O'Brien and Taylor, in the Temple of ſeventy guns, and the Griffin of thirty-two, two of his fleet, cut out of Petit Havre bay, in the Iſland of Martinico, the Virgin, formerly a Britiſh ſloop of war, which had been taken, and then lay at anchor, in company with three privateers of twelve guns, under protection of three forts. The attack of theſe batteries laſted ſeveral hours, but at length they were all ſilenced, and beat down, and the Engliſh took poſſeſſion of their four prizes. They afterwards entered another harbour of that iſland, having firſt demoliſhed another fort: here they lay unmoleſted four days, and then departed, carrying with them three other prizes. In their return to Antigua, they fell in with thirteen ſhips bound to Martinico, with proviſions, all of which they captured without firing a ſingle broadſide.—About the ſame time many privateers were taken by other ſhips, which were ſent out by the commodore to cruiſe round the iſland of Guadaloupe, ſo that the trade of thoſe iſlands remained as ſecure as in a time of peace.

Nothing of importance was performed by the fleets of Great Britain in the ſeas of Europe during the year 1760. A ſquadron continued to ride in the bay of Cadiz, under the command of Admiral Broderick, which was expoſed to ſo terrible a gale of wind, that all the ſhips were driven out to ſea, ſeveral of whom were diſmaſted, and in the greateſt danger of periſhing; but providentially they all got into Gibraltar, though in a moſt ſhattered condition. The remains of La Clue's ſquadron, which had been blocked up in the harbour of Cadiz even ſince the engagement with Admiral Boſcawen, taking advantage of this diſaſter, ſailed out, and in about a fortnight arrived at Toulon.

A powerful ſquadron was likewiſe continued in the bay of Quiberon, both to ſpread a conſtant alarm along the coaſt, and thereby oblige the French to keep a large body of forces in thoſe parts, and to endeavour the deſtruction of the ſhips which ſtill lay in the river Vilaine. This fleet was alternately commanded by Admiral Boſcawen and Sir Edward Hawke; the former of whom took poſſeſſion of a ſmall iſland near the river Vannes, about a mile broad, where he erected two or three tents for the ſick, and planted a garden for their uſe, with all ſorts of vegetables. In the month of September Sir Edward Hawke, who had then relieved Mr. Boſcawen, ſent Lord Howe in the Magnanime, with the Prince Frederic and Bedford, to attack a fort on the iſland of Dumet, which ſurrendered very ſoon after the Prince Frederic and Bedford had been placed againſt it. There were found in it nine cannon; and the garriſon conſiſted of fifty-four men, of which two were killed, and ſix wounded in the attack; the only hurt received by the ſhips, was a ſhot through the Bedford's mizen-maſt. The French commandant was afterwards degraded from his arms and nobility, and condemned to be beheaded for ſurrendering the place to the Engliſh; however, he was only executed in effigy. The iſland is about three miles long, and two broad, with plenty of water, by which the Britiſh fleet in the bay were plentifully ſupplied with that neceſſary article, without the trouble and expence of having it conveyed to them by tranſports.

As the French dared not to ſend out their ſhips of war, the only mode of attacking them was, for Britiſh ſhips to brave them at the mouths of their harbours: accordingly, Admiral Rodney lay with a ſmall ſquadron before Havre de Grace and the mouth of the Seine. In the month of July, five large flat-bottomed boats, loaded with cannon and ſhot, ſet ſail from Harfleur in the middle of the day, with their colours flying, as if they intended to ſet the Engliſh ſquadron at defiance; for the walls of Havre, and even the adjacent hills, were covered with ſpectators, aſſembled to behold the iſſue of this adventure. The admiral well knew, that, until they had paſſed the river Orne, they had it in their power to take ſhelter in ſeveral ſmall ports, ſo that not a ſhip in his ſquadron ſtirred. The French boats, having reached Caen river, ſtood backwards and forwards upon the ſhoals, intending to amuſe the Engliſh till night, and then to proceed under cover of the darkneſs. To counteract this plan, the admiral gave directions to his ſmall veſſels to be ready; and that, as ſoon as day-light failed, they ſhould make all the ſail poſſible for the mouth of the river Orne, thereby to cut off the enemy's retreat; at the ſame time, Mr. Rodney, with the larger ſhips, ſtood on to the ſteep coaſt of Port Baſſin. The ſcheme ſucceeded to his wiſh. The enemy, ſeeing their retreat cut off, ran aſhore at Port Baſſin, where they were deſtroyed, together with the ſmall fort which had been erected for the defence of the harbour. Each of theſe veſſels was one hundred feet in length, and capable of containing four hundred men for a ſhort paſſage. It is not known what their deſtination was, but a great number of theſe tranſports were provided, for ten eſcaped with great difficulty into the river Orne leading to Caen, and in conſequence of this diſaſter, one hundred were unloaded, and ſent up again to Rouen.

This was not all the damage the enemy ſuſtained on the coaſt of Normandy. In the month of November, Captain Ourry of the Acteon, chaſed a large privateer, and drove her aſhore between Cape Barfleur and La Hogue, where ſhe periſhed. The cutters belonging to this ſquadron ſcoured the coaſt towards Dieppe, where a conſiderable fiſhery was carried on, and where they took or deſtroyed near forty veſſels of conſiderable burden.

The operations of the war were now chiefly carried on by frigates. Captain Skinner of the Biddeford, and Captain Kennedy of the Flamborough, two frigates of twenty-four guns each, ſailing out of the Tagus on a cruiſe, on the 4th of May fell in with two large French frigates, the largeſt of thirty-ſix guns, and two hundred and fifty men, called La Malicieuſe, commanded by M. de Goimpy, the other l'Opale of thirty-two guns, and two hundred and fifty men, commanded by M. le Marquis d'Ars, convoy to a fleet of merchant-ſhips, thirty-ſix leagues from the rock of Liſbon. As the enemy did not decline the battle, the action began about half an hour after ſix in the evening, and was ſuſtained with great fury until nine, at which time the firing ceaſed on both ſides for nearly half an hour, in order to repair the damage they had ſuſtained, after which the engagement was renewed, and continued until eleven o'clock. By this time the Flamborough had loſt ſight of the Biddeford, and the frigate with which Captain Kennedy was engaged bore away with all the ſail ſhe could carry. He purſued her till noon the next day, when ſhe left him ſo far aſtern, that he loſt ſight of her, and returned to Liſbon, with the loſs of eighteen men killed and wounded, including the lieutenant of marines; and conſiderable damage both in her hull and rigging.

On the 7th, the Biddeford arrived, after having ſuſtained a yet more deſperate conflict, and compelled her antagoniſt to give way, although ſhe was the largeſt of the two, being the French commodore's ſhip. In about an hour after the action began, the brave Captain Skinner was killed by a cannon ball; and the command devolved on Lieutenant Knollis, who maintained the battle with great ſpirit, even after he was wounded, until he received a ſecond ſhot in his body, which proved mortal. Mr. Thomas State, the maſter, then took the command, and the engagement was continued with great obſtinacy, the ſailors remaining undiſmayed, and the guns well ſerved; one poſt vied with another, gun with gun, and platoon with platoon, who ſhould ſend the quickeſt and ſureſt deſtruction to their foe: even numbers of the wounded men returned with cheerfulneſs to their quarters, as ſoon as the ſurgeon had dreſſed their wounds. About ten o'clock the fire from the enemy ſlackened apace, one gun became ſilent after another, till at length they hardly made any return, diſcharging not above four guns in the laſt quarter of an hour, but ſtill receiving almoſt the whole fire from the Biddeford, whoſe people hoped from theſe appearances that their antagoniſt was going to ſtrike, which would indeed have been a glorious conqueſt; but the Frenchman had other views, for at half an hour paſt ten o'clock ſhe made off, with every rag of ſail ſhe could ſet. Purſuit was impoſſible, as the ſhip was under no command, the running rigging being all cut, the maſts and yards quite ſhattered and diſabled; ſo that ſhe went ahead very faſt, and in about half an hour, diſappeared. On-board the Biddeford ten only were killed, including the captain and lieutenant, and twenty-five wounded.

The Active, Captain Elliot, not long after his engagement with Thurot, proceeded in the Æolus to Quiberon bay, where he cut out a French brig laden with ſtores, from under a battery of great ſtrength on the iſland of Belleiſle, in which attempt his ſhip was expoſed to a continual fire from two batteries of twelve and forty-two pounders; ſome ſhells were alſo fired, but without doing any execution.

Though the Engliſh navy ſuffered nothing from the French during this year, yet it ſuſtained conſiderable loſs by tempeſts. The Ramilies, a magnificent ſhip of the ſecond rate, one of the ſquadron which Admiral Boſcawen commanded in the bay of Biſcay, having received damage in a ſtorm, was coming home to refit, when ſhe over-ſhot the entrance of Plymouth Sound, and being embayed near a point called the Bolthead, about four leagues higher up the channel, was daſhed in pieces among the rocks, after all her anchors and cables had given way. All her officers and men, amounting to ſeven hundred, unhappily periſhed, except one midſhipman and twenty-five mariners, who had the good fortune to ſave themſelves by leaping on the rocks, as the hull was thrown forwards, and raiſed up by the ſucceeding billows.—The Conqueror, a new ſhip of ſeventy-four guns, coming round from Plymouth a few months after, was loſt on the iſland of Nicholas; but the crew and guns were ſaved. The maſter and pilot were tried by a court-martial; the former was acquitted, but the latter was ſentenced to be impriſoned eighteen months.—The Lyme of twenty guns, foundered in the Cattegate in Norway, and fifty of the men periſhed; alſo in the Weſt-Indies, a tender belonging to the Dublin, commanded by Sir James Douglas, was loſt in a gale of wind, with one hundred and ten choſen mariners.

The allied army and that of France had kept the field ſo late the laſt year, and ſuch a ſcarcity of forage prevailed during the winter, that it was not until the middle of ſummer that the two contending powers renewed their efforts for deſtroying each other. Marſhal Broglio was at the head of one hundred thouſand effective men, while Count St. Germain commanded a ſeparate body on the Rhine. Twenty-five thouſand Britiſh forces ſtrengthened the army under Prince Ferdinand, notwithſtanding which, the allies fell greatly ſhort of their foes in point of number. The hereditary prince, who had rejoined his uncle, began the campaign by attacking the army commanded by M. de St. Germain near Corbach, July 10, on the confines of the landgraviate of Heſſe, towards Weſtphalia, but he unexpectedly found, that the grand army of France under Broglio had formed a junction with theſe troops; ſo that his ſmall detachment had to contend with an enemy inexhauſtible in number. He was therefore obliged to retreat; and, by the ſignal bravery of a ſquadron of Bland's and Howard's dragoons, effected it without much loſs, but in this action

tion he was ſlightly wounded. This hurt however did not prevent him from attempting four days after to wipe off the diſgrace which his retreat had in his own eyes occaſioned. He attacked a body of French and Saxons under M. Glaubitz, near Ziegenhaen, in the centre of Heſſe. In this enterprize he commanded ſix battalions of German troops, two brigades of hunters, a regiment of huſſars, and Elliot's light dragoons. Theſe laſt were juſt then arrived, had been newly raiſed, and had never ſeen any kind of ſervice; but the prince liked their appearance ſo well, that he preferred them to any other corps. After a march of ſixty miles, which was performed in two days, the enemy was ſurprized, whilſt repoſing in the fulleſt ſecurity. The ſlaughter was dreadful; a regiment of enemy's huſſars was entirely cut to pieces. Elliot's light horſe juſtly gained the honour of being principally concerned in effecting the ſignal advantage. General Glaubitz and the Prince of Anhalt were made priſoners, beſides near two hundred officers, and two thouſand four hundred and eighty-two private men. Nine pair of colours and ſix pieces of cannon were taken. Only ſeventy-nine of the prince's army were killed, but of theſe ſeventy-one were light-horſemen.

The changes in the poſition of the two armies which this ſurprize occaſioned ſoon brought on, July 31, the battle of Warburgh, on the confines of Weſtphalia, with a part of the French army under the Chevalier de Muy, in which the Britiſh cavalry, who conſidered themſelves as defrauded of their ſhare of glory in the battle of Minden, diſplayed their heroiſm to great advantage under the Marquis of Granby. The ardour of the Britiſh infantry was equally operative, but the fate of the day was decided before they could get into action. The French made a precipitate retreat towards Stadberg, leaving fifteen hundred dead on the field of battle, and a like number priſoners.

But, although the allies were victorious, the French ſoon after became poſſeſſed of all Heſſe, by reducing Caſſel, Eimbach, and Ziegenhaen. They even penetrated into the electorate of Hanover, and maſtered Gottingen and Munden.

The farther operations of the campaign were carried on by detached parties, which were generally headed by the hereditary prince, whilſt the main army continued encamped, without performing any material movements. In theſe active ſervices the young hero, if poſſible, exceeded his former exploits. With a body of Britiſh troops he ſurprized the French at Zierenberg, September 5, from whence he brought off five hundred priſoners, beſides thirty-ſix officers. He then ſuddenly appeared on the banks of the lower Rhine, and, croſſing that river, approached Cleves, which ſurrendered in three days. Weſel, ſituated on the oppoſite ſhore was at the ſame time beſieged by another party of his troops. This unexpected diverſion, obliged France to ſend an army under M. de Caſtries into thoſe parts. The prince, unwilling to abandon his deſigns upon Weſel, reſolved to attack the enemy with one part of his force. One of the moſt deſperate onſets enſued at Campen that this war, ſo pregnant of brave exploits, had produced; but the aſſailants were at length obliged to deſiſt, with the loſs of near one thouſand two hundred men killed and wounded, beſides five hundred made priſoners: that of the French was far greater. The allied troops hereupon repaſſed the Rhine, but without loſs, or even annoyance, and the ſiege of Weſel was raiſed.

Such was the iſſue of an expedition which expoſed the projector of it to the imputation of temerity. Whatever his aim might have been, beſides the reduction of Weſel, with the ſtrength of which he did not ſeem to have been very well acquainted, he certainly miſcarried in his deſign; and his miſcarriage was attended with a very conſiderable loſs of troops, occaſioned not only by the action, but alſo by the diſeaſes engendered from the wet weather, the fatigue of long marches, and the want of proper conveniences, not to mention the enormous expence in contingencies incurred by this fruitleſs undertaking.

In the month of November, while he lay encamped in the neighbourhood of Schermbeck, a body of the enemy attempted to beat up his quarters: having received intimation of their deſign, he immediately called in his advanced poſts, and made a diſpoſition for giving them a proper reception. He abandoned the tents that were in the front of his camp, and poſted his infantry in ambuſcade behind thoſe that were in the rear: at the ſame time he ordered ſome regiments of horſe and huſſars to fetch a compaſs, and fall upon the back of the enemy. This ſtratagem ſucceeded to his wiſh. The French detachment, believing the allies had actually abandoned their camp, began to pillage the tents in the utmoſt diſorder: then the infantry ſallied from the place were they were concealed, and fell upon them with great impetuoſity: the artillery opened, and the cavalry charged them in flank. In a word, of twelve hundred who marched from Weſel on this expedition, ſcarce two hundred eſcaped.

The Duke de Broglio endeavoured, by ſundry means, to take advantage of the allied army on the other ſide of the Weſer, thus weakened by the abſence of the troops under the hereditary prince; but he found Prince Ferdinand too vigilant to be ſurpriſed, and too ſtrongly ſituated to be attacked with any proſpect of ſucceſs. He therefore contented himſelf with ravaging the country by detachments: he ſent M. de Stainville, with a conſiderable body of forces, to penetrate into the heart of Hanover; and on the 15th of September, that officer falling in with a detachment of the allies, commanded by Major Bulow, attacked them near the abbey of Schaken. After a warm and obſtinate engagement, they were defeated, and driven to Bulemont, with the loſs of their cannon, baggage, and a good number of men, who fell into the hands of the victors. After this exploit, M. de Stainville advanced to Halberdadt, and demanded of that capital a contribution of one million five hundred thouſand livres: but the citizens had been ſo drained by former exactions, that they could not raiſe above thirty thouſand: for the remainder the French partizan took hoſtages, with whom he returned to the grand army encamped at Caſſel, from whence they in a little time fell back as far as Gottingen.

As the enemy retreated, Prince Ferdinand advanced as far as Hurſte, where he eſtabliſhed his head-quarters about the latter end of November. While he remained in this poſition, divers ſkirmiſhes happened in the neighbourhood of Gottingen. Major-general Breidenberg, at the head of two regiments of Hanoverian and Brunſwick guards, with a detachment of cavalry, attacked, on the 29th of November, the French poſt at Heydemunden, upon the river Worrau. This he carried, and took poſſeſſion of the town, which the enemy haſtily abandoned. Part of their detachment croſſed the river in boats; the reſt threw themſelves into an intrenchment that covered the paſſage, which the allies endeavoured to force in ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts, galled as they were by the fire of the enemy's redoubts on the other ſide of the river. At length M. Breidenbach was obliged to deſiſt, and fall back into the town; from whence he retired at midnight, after having ſuſtained conſiderable damage.

Prince Ferdinand had it very much at heart to drive the French from Gottingen, and accordingly inveſted that city; but the French garriſon, which was numerous and well provided, made ſuch a vigorous defence, as baffled all the endeavours of the allies, who were moreover impeded by the rainy weather, which, added to other conſiderations, prevented them from undertaking the ſiege in form. Nevertheleſs, they kept the place blocked up from the 22d of November to the 12th of the following month; when the garriſon, in a deſperate ſally, took one of their principal poſts, and compelled them to raiſe the blockade. About the middle of December, Prince Ferdinand retired into winter quarters; he himſelf reſiding at Uſlar, and the Engliſh troops being cantoned in the biſhopric of Paderborn. Thus the enemy were left in poſſeſſion of Heſſe, and the whole country eaſtward of the Weſer, to the frontiers of the electorate of Hanover. If the allied army had not been weakened, for the ſake of a raſh, ill-concerted, and unſuccefsful, expedition to the Lower Rhine, in all probability the French would have been obliged to abandon the footing they had gained in the courſe of this campaign; and in particular to retreat from Gottingen, which they now maintained and fortified with great diligence and circumſpection.

The year 1760 ſhowed the Pruſſian monarch in a more dangerous ſituation than he had ever yet experienced. Indeed his affairs now ſeemed to be altogether deſperate. His loſſes were not to be meaſured by the number of the killed or priſoners, but by armies deſtroyed or taken. Forty generals had died or been killed in his ſervice ſince the beginning of October 1756, excluſive of thoſe who were wounded or taken priſoners. This of itſelf would have been an irreparable loſs, had not the very wars which deſtroyed theſe furniſhed others equally capable of filling their places. But another deficiency, which could not be remedied, ſtill remained.—The king had, by his indefatigable induſtry and exertions, ſupplied all the deficiencies of men in his armies, but they were not the ſame men as before. The hardy veterans, with whom he had originally taken the field, were now no more, and their places were ſupplied by others who had neither the ſame experience nor diſcipline; ſo that now he was obliged to ſupply this deficiency by his own genius and heroiſm.

But whatever abilities the Pruſſian monarch might poſſeſs, and though he undoubtedly exerted them to the utmoſt, it ſeemed only to be contending againſt fate, and his enemies gained ſtill greater and greater advantages. General Laudohn, with whom none but the king himſelf ſeems to have been able to cope, by a ſeries of artful movements, drew into a diſadvantageous ſituation M. Fouquet, one of the Pruſſian generals, with a ſtrong body of forces. Perceiving it impoſſible for them to eſcape, Laudohn then made a violent attack on their intrenchments in the dead of the night of June 23d. The Pruſſians made a gallant defence, but at laſt were all killed or taken priſoners except about three hundred. Of the Pruſſians were killed four thouſand, and ſeven thouſand taken priſoners; fifty-eight pieces of cannon, and a great number of colours, were alſo loſt. The victory, however, was dearly bought; for the Auſtrians loſt above twelve thouſand men in killed and wounded; whom, however, they could better ſpare than the Pruſſians, on account of their numbers.—This action was called the battle of Landſhut.

Baron Laudohn failed not to improve this victory to the utmoſt. He inſtantly turned back from Landſhut, and fell upon the city of Glatz; which he took in a very ſhort time, with the garriſon who defended it, conſiſting of 2000 men. In this place were found one hundred and one pieces of braſs cannon, with immenſe quantities of proviſions and military ſtores. From thence he marched againſt Breſlau, and immediately inveſted it. But, in the mean time, the King of Pruſſia, whoſe motions had been all this time counteracted by M. Daun out of Saxony, marched with his uſual rapidity towards Sileſia. By this means he drew M. Daun out of Saxony; and indeed the Auſtran general uſed ſuch expedition, that he gained two full days on the king. This was no ſooner known to his Pruſſian majeſty, than he returned with the ſame expedition that he had advanced, and ſat down before Dreſden. Of this M. Daun ſoon received intelligence, and returned alſo. In the mean time, however, the buildings of the city were terribly ſhattered by the king's cannon and bombs which continually played on it. His endeavours, however, proved ineffectual to reduce it before the arrival of M. Daun. The ſiege had been begun on the 13th of July, and on the 19th M. Daun appeared within a league of Dreſden. The Pruſſians then redoubled their efforts. They had that day received reinforcements of heavy cannon and mortars, with which they battered the place inceſſantly. The cathedral church, new ſquare, ſeveral principal ſtreets, and ſome palaces, and the noble manufactory of procelain, were entirely deſtroyed. The ſiege was continued till the 22d: but, on the night of the 21ſt, M. Daun had thrown ſixteen battalions into the city; which rendered it impoſſible for the king to continue longer before it with any proſpect of ſucceſs. He therefore raiſed the ſiege, and retired without moleſtation, though there were three conſiderable armies of the enemy in the neighbourhood. Breſlau was fiercely bombarded by Laudohn, but the approach of Prince Henry obliged him to deſiſt from his enterprize on the 5th of Auguſt.

Meantime the fortune of the king ſeemed likely to be terminated by one fatal ſtroke. Finding it impoſſible for him to carry on a defenſive war, he marched towards Sileſia with ſuch aſtoniſhing rapidity, that before the middle of Auguſt he had advanced two hundred miles, leaving Marſhal Daun with his army far behind him. This expedition he undertook in order to engage General Laudohn before he could have time to effect a junction with Daun, and Lacy, another Auſtrian general; which triple union ſeemed to threaten him with unavoidable deſtruction at once. This, however, he found it impoſſible to prevent: and the three armies, when joined, formed a moſt tremendous line of encampments, extending no leſs that thirty Engliſh miles; at the ſame time that every one of their poſts was ſtrong, and the communication between them eaſy. The king was ſtrongly encamped at Lignitz; and for ſeveral days employed all his military ſkill in attempting to induce one of the bodies to detach itſelf from the reſt, or to attack them at ſome diſadvantage; but without effect. At laſt, the Auſtrian generals, having maturely weighed all circumſtances, reſolved to attack the king's camp itſelf, ſtrong as it was; and Marſhal Daun, remembering the advantage he had gained at Hochkirchen by an attack in the night-time, reſolved to follow the ſame plan now.

The plan was laid in the following manner. The whole army, as ſoon as it ſhould begin to grow dark, was to march from their ſeveral poſts to ſuch ſituations as were marked out for each corps: they were to ſtrike their tents, but yet to keep up the fires in their camps, and to have the drums beat the tattoo as uſual, by which means they had a probability of ſurpriſing the enemy; or, if not, they judged it abſolutely impoſſible for him to eſcape them, though he ſhould be ever ſo much on his guard. In what manner the King of Pruſſia became acquainted with this plan, is not known. His friends attributed it to his own penetration and knowledge of the ſtratagems of war; the Auſtrians, to intelligence given him by deſerters. But, in whatever way he became acquainted with this deſign, it is certain that he took the moſt effectual methods of preventing it. As the Auſtrian plan was to ſurround his camp, and this could not be done without the diviſion of their army which he had ſo long deſired, he reſolved to intercept one of the parties; and if that ſhould be diſabled from acting, he could then more eaſily deal with the other two. Therefore, in the very evening calculated for the deciſive attack on his camp, he quitted it with the utmoſt privacy, and took an advantageous poſt on the road through which General Laudohn was to paſs. The nature of this poſt was ſuch, that at the ſame time that it ſtopped the progreſs of Laudohn in front, Daun would lie under great difficulties if he ſhould attempt his rear; at the ſame time that, for his further ſecurity, the king ſtrengthened the rear with ſeveral batteries. As ſoon as his army was drawn up, he divided it; leaving his right on the ground where it had been formed, to obſerve Marſhal Daun, and to maintain that poſt; whilſt with his left he turned in order to fall on the corps under General Laudohn. In the mean time, that commander, ignorant of the fate which was awaiting him, advanced with the utmoſt expedition towards the place which had been aſſigned him, in order to ſhare in the glory of deſtroying the Pruſſian monarch; when, at three in the morning, on the 15th of Auguſt, a thick fog which covered the ground, ſuddenly clearing up, diſcovered, like the opening of a great ſcene, the dreadful front of the Pruſſian army regularly embattled, and advantageouſly poſted. Laudohn, though ſurpriſed, made the beſt diſpoſitions that circumſtances would admit of, and an obſtinate engagement enſued; in which, however, he was at laſt obliged to yield to the ſuperior ſkill of his adverſary, with the loſs of ten thouſand killed, wounded, and priſoners, eighty-two pieces of cannon, and twenty-three pair of colours.

The victory, though complete, gave but a partial relief to the King of Pruſſia. The moſt eſſential ſervice it did was the preventing of the Ruſſians from joining thoſe enemies which he already had. Count Czernichew had been advancing with twenty-four thouſand men, and had even paſſed the Oder; but was ſo intimidated by this news, that he inſtantly repaſſed that river on the ſame bridges which he had lately built, even though M. Daun ſent him a ſtrong body of troops in order to encourage him to advance. Soon after this battle, the king joined his brother Prince Henry at New Marche; and marched againſt Daun, who had begun to form the blockade of Schweidnitz, fell upon a corps under General Beck, made two battalions of Croats priſoners, and diſperſed the reſt, which obliged the enemy to abandon the enterpriſe they had juſt undertaken. About the ſame time, General Hulſen gained a conſiderable advantage over the Imperial army in Saxony, with very trifling loſs on his part, by which he effectually prevented them from cutting off his communication with the city of Torgau.

By theſe ſucceſſes the affairs of his Pruſſian majeſty ſeemed to revive: but there was no end of his enemies. The late manœuvres had drawn him ſo far into Sileſia, that his communicatiom with Brandenburg was almoſt wholly cut off. The Ruſſian army, which after it had repaſſed the Oder began to move out of Sileſia, ſent forward a powerful detachment under Count Czernichew towards the march of Brandenburg. A body of fifteen thouſand Auſtrians, under the generals Lacy and Brentano, and the whole united body of Auſtrians and Imperialiſts which acted in Saxony, began their march in concert with the Ruſſians, and propoſed to unite at the gates of Berlin. Theſe armies amounted to forty thouſand men. To oppoſe this formidable power, General Hulſen called to his aſſiſtance General Werner, who had been ſent with a body of troops into Pomerania; but, after being joined by him, their united forces were found not to exceed fifteen thouſand or ſixteen thouſand men. To attempt a defence of the capital with this force would have been little ſhort of madneſs: and therefore theſe commanders were obliged to leave Berlin to its fate; which indeed, conſidering the barbarity of the Ruſſians and the animoſity of the Auſtrians, ſeemed to be a dreadful one. However, by the powerful mediation of ſeveral foreign miniſters, the town obtained terms which were not altogether intolerable; but the magazines, arſenals, and founderies,

ries, were deſtroyed, and an immenſe quantity of military ſtores ſeized, with a number of cannon and other arms. The city was firſt obliged to pay 800,000 guilders, after which a contribution of 1,900,000 crowns was laid on: yet, notwithſtanding this, many violences were committed, and the king's palace was plundered and the furniture abuſed in a ſcandalous manner.

The combined armies ſtaid in Berlin only four days; dreading the ſevere vengeance of the King of Pruſſia, who they heard was advancing towards that place with great expedition. But ſo great were the embarraſſments which now attended that monarch, that it ſeemed abſolutely beyond human power to retrieve his affairs. The Imperialiſts, on their return from Berlin, having no army to oppoſe them, made themſelves maſters of Leipſic, Torgau, Meiſſen, and Wirtemberg; in which laſt city they found the grand magazine of the Pruſſians immenſely ſtored with proviſions, ammunition, &c. M. Stainville alſo, with a detachment from Broglio the French general's army, laid the city and duchy of Halberſtadt under contribution. In Eaſtern Pomerania, the Ruſſians had beſieged Colberg by ſea and land. In the Weſtern Pomerania, the Swedes advanced with great celerity, hoping to ſhare in the plunder of Berlin. In Sileſia, the king no ſooner began his march to the northward, than Laudohn advanced, and laid ſiege to the important fortreſs of Coſel; and, to complete this diſtreſs and embarraſſment, the king himſelf was attended at every ſtep by Count Daun with a ſuperior army well prepared to take every advantage.

In this deſperate ſituation, the king, being joined by his generals Hulſen and Prince Eugene of Wittemberg with the corps under their command, advanced up the Elbe, while M. Daun fell back to cover Leipſic and Torgau; but the latter, finding that the Pruſſians directed their march towards the Elbe, encamped ed within reach of Torgau; one part of his army extending to the Elbe, by which he was covered on that ſide, whilſt on the other he was covered by hills and woods, ſo that it was impoſſible to chooſe a more advantageous ſituation. The Pruſſian army did not amount to fifty thouſand men, whilſt that of the Auſtrians exceeded eighty-ſix thouſand: yet ſuch were the unfortunate circumſtances of the king, that he was obliged to fight under all theſe diſadvantages; and therefore he cauſed his army to be informed, that he was now to lead them to a moſt deſperate attempt, that his affairs required it, and that he was determined to conquer or die. His ſoldiers unanimouſly declared that they would die with him.

The 3d of November 1760, was the day on which this important affair was decided. The king divided his forces into three columns. General Hulſen was to take poſt with one in a wood that lay on the left of the Auſtrian army, and had orders not to move until he found the reſt of the Pruſſians engaged. General Ziethen was to charge on the right; and the great attack in front was to be conducted by the king in perſon. His forces were diſpoſed in ſuch a manner, that either his right or left muſt take the enemy in rear and cloſe them in, ſo as to diſable them from undertaking any thing againſt the part where he intended to effect his principal attack.

M. Daun, perceiving the king to be ſerious in his deſign of fighting, to prevent confuſion, ſent all his baggage over the Elbe, acroſs which he threw three bridges in caſe a retreat ſhould be neceſſary. At the ſame time he cauſed Torgau to be evacuated; and then, extending his firſt line into a village called Zinne on the left, he ſtretched it to another called Croſwitz on the right; ſupporting the right of his ſecond line upon the Elbe. In this diſpoſition he was found, when, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the king began his attack. He was received by the fire of two hundred pieces of cannon, which were diſpoſed along the Auſtrian front. The Pruſſians were thrice led on to the attack; but were every time repulſed and broken with terrible ſlaughter. The king at length commanded a freſh body of cavalry to advance, which at firſt compelled the Auſtrians to retire; but new reinforcements continually coming in, this cavalry was in its turn obliged to fall back, and the Pruſſians maintained themſelves with extreme difficulty, until General Ziethen, with the right wing, attacked the enemy in the rear, repulſed them, and poſſeſſed himſelf of ſome eminences which commanded the whole Auſtrian army. Encouraged by this ſucceſs, the Pruſſian infantry once more advanced, maſtered ſeveral of the enemy's intrenchments, and made way for a new attack of their cavalry, which broke in with irreſiſtible fury on the Auſtrians, and threw ſeveral bodies of them into irreparable diſorder. It was now about nine o'clock, and of conſequence both armies were involved in thick darkneſs; yet the fire continued without intermiſſion, and the battalions with a blind rage diſcharged at one another without diſtinguiſhing friend from foe. M. Daun received a dangerous wound in the thigh, and was carried from the field, which probably haſtened the defeat of his troops. The command then devolved on Count O'Donnell; who, finding the greateſt part of his troops in diſorder, the night advanced, and the enemy poſſeſſed of ſome eminences which commanded his camp, and from which it was in vain to think of driving them, ordered a retreat, which was conducted with wonderful order and exactneſs; none were loſt in paſſing the bridges, and by far the greater part of their artillery was preſerved. The loſs of the Pruſſians was eſtimated at ten thouſand killed and wounded, and three thouſand taken priſoners. That of the Auſtrians in killed and wounded is not known; but eight thouſand were taken priſoners, with two hundred and ſixteen officers, among whom were four generals.

The conſequence of the victory of Torgau was, that the king recovered all Saxony except Dreſden; and in the mean time, General Werner having marched into Pomerania, the Ruſſians raiſed the ſiege of Colberg, and retired into Poland, without having effected any thing further than waſting the open country. Werner then flew to the aſſiſtance of Weſtern Pomerania, where he defeated a body of Swedes, and at laſt drove them totally out of the country. General Laudohn too abruptly raiſed the blockade of Coſel; and afterwards, abandoning Landſhut, he retired into the Auſtrian Sileſia, leaving the Pruſſian part entirely in quiet. M. Daun placed one part of his army in Dreſden, and the other in ſome ſtrong poſts which lie to the ſouth and weſt of it, by which he commanded the Elbe, and preſerved his communication with Bohemia. The army of the empire retired into Franconia, and placed its head-quarters at Bramberg; and in this poſture of affairs the campaign was cloſed.

On the 25th of October, 1760, a moſt important event took place, which many were of opinion would make no ſmall change in the nature of the war, and above all in the general ſyſtem of pacification: this was the death of George II. King of Great Britain. He died ſuddenly in his palace at Kenſington, in the ſeventy-ſeventh year of his age, and thirty-third of his reign. The immediate cauſe of his death was the rupture of the ſubſtance of the right ventricle of his heart, by which the circulation was ſtopped in an inſtant. This was preceded by no ſort of apparent illneſs, his majeſty enjoying an uncommon degree of health and ſtrength for that age.—None of his predeceſſors on the throne of England lived to ſo great an age, few of them enjoyed ſo long a reign; and this long courſe was diſtinguiſhed by circumſtances of peculiar felicity. His ſubjects, allowing for one ſhort and momentary cloud, enjoyed perpetual peace at home, and abroad on many occaſions acquired great glory.

There was to the laſt a conſiderable increaſe in their agriculture, their commerce, and their manufactures, which were daily improving under their internal tranquillity they enjoyed, and the wiſe regulations that were made in every ſeſſion of his parliaments. By a wonderful happineſs, he left theſe improvements no way checked, but rather forwarded, in one of the moſt general and waſteful wars that has raged in the world for many centuries. This prince had many virtues and ſome defects: he was ſteady in his attachments, and though he had no acuteneſs of diſcernment for developing characters, his moderation and equanimity ſupplied the place of more dignified talents. He was in his perſon rather lower than the middle ſize, well-ſhaped, erect, with eyes remarkably prominent, a high noſe, and fair complexion. In his diſpoſition he is ſaid to have been haſty, prone to anger, eſpecially in his youth, yet ſoon appeaſed; otherwiſe mild, moderate, and humane; in his way of living temperate, regular, and ſo methodical in every branch of private œconomy, that his attention deſcended to objects which a great king (perhaps) had better overlook. He was fond of military pomp and parade; and perſonally brave. He loved war as a ſoldier; he ſtudied it as a ſcience; and correſponded on this ſubject with ſome of the greateſt officers whom Germany has produced. The extent of his underſtanding, and the ſplendour of his virtue, we ſhall not preſume to aſcertain, or attempt to diſplay; we rather wiſh for opportunities to expatiate on his munificence and liberality, his generous regard to genius and learning, or his encouragement and protection of thoſe arts by which a nation is benefited and adorned. With reſpect to his government, it very ſeldom deviated from the inſtitutions of law, or encroached upon private property, or interfered with the common adminiſtration of juſtice. The circumſtances that chiefly marked his public character, were a predilection for his native country, and a cloſe a cloſe attention to the political intereſts of the Germanic body: points and principles to which he adhered with the moſt invincible fortitude; and if ever the blood and treaſure of Great Britain were ſacrificed to theſe conſiderations, we ought not ſo much to blame the prince, who acted from the dictates of natural affection, as we ſhould deteſt a ſucceſſion of venal miniſters, all of whom in their turns devoted themſelves, ſoul and body, to the gratification of this paſſion, or partiality, ſo prejudicial to the true intereſt of their country.

The commerce of Great Britain continued to increaſe during the whole courſe of this reign; but this increaſe was not the effect of extraordinary encouragement. On the contrary, the neceſſities of government, the growing expences of the nation, and the continual augmentation of the public debt, obliged the legiſlature to hamper trade with manifold and grievous impoſitions: its increaſe, therefore, muſt have been owing to the natural progreſs of induſtry and adventure. War, which naturally impedes the traffic of other nations, had opened new ſources to the merchants of Great Britain. The ſuperiority of her naval power had cruſhed the navigation of France, her great rival in commerce; ſo that ſhe now ſupplied, on her own terms, all thoſe foreign markets, at which, in time of peace, ſhe was underſold by that dangerous competitor. Thus her trade was augmented to a ſurpriſing pitch; and this great augmentation alone enabled her to maintain the war at ſuch an enormous expence. And here Smollett makes a curious remark: "As this advantage (ſays he) will ceaſe when the French are at liberty to re-eſtabliſh their commerce, and proſecute it without moleſtation, it would be for the intereſt of Great Britain to be at *continual variance* with that reſtleſs neighbour, provided the conteſt could be limited to the operations of a ſea-war, in which England would be always invincible and victorious."

The powers of the human mind were freely and fully exerciſed in this reign. Conſiderable progreſs was made in mathematics and aſtronomy by divers individuals; among whom we number Sanderſon, Bradley, Maclaurin, Smith, and the two Simpſons. Natural philoſophy became a general ſtudy; and the new doctrine of electricity grew into faſhion. Different methods were diſcovered for rendering ſea-water potable and ſweet; and divers uſeful hints were communicated to the public by the learned Dr. Stephen Hales, who directed all his reſearches and experiments to the benefit of ſociety. The clergy of Great Britain were generally learned, pious, and exemplary: Sherlock, Hoadley, Secker, and Conybeare, were promoted to the firſt dignities of the church; Warburton, who had long ſignaliſed himſelf by the ſtrength and boldneſs of his genius, his extenſive capacity, and profound erudition, at length obtained the mitre. But theſe promotions were granted to reaſons of ſtate convenience, and perſonal intereſt, rather than as rewards of extraordinary merit. Many other eccleſiaſtics of worth and learning were totally overlooked. Nor was eccleſiaſtical merit confined to the eſtabliſhed church. Many inſtances of extraordinary genius, unaffected piety, and univerſal moderation, appeared among the diſſenting miniſters of Great Britain and Ireland: among theſe we particulariſe the elegant, the primitive, Foſter; the learned, ingenious, and penetrating, Leland.

The progreſs of reaſon, and free cultivation of the human mind, had not, however, entirely baniſhed thoſe ridiculous ſects and ſchiſms of which the kingdom had been formerly ſo productive. Impoſture and fanaticiſm ſtill hung upon the ſkirts of religion. Weak minds were ſeduced by the deluſions of a ſuperſtition ſtyled methodiſm, raiſed upon the affectation of ſuperior ſanctity, and maintained by pretenſions to divine illumination. Many thouſands in the lower ranks of life were infected with this ſpecies of enthuſiaſm, by the unwearied endeavours of a few obſcure preachers, ſuch as Whitfield, and the two Weſleys, propagated their doctrines to the moſt remote corners of the Britiſh dominions, and found means to lay the whole kingdom under contribution.—Fanaticiſm alſo formed a league with falſe philoſophy. One Hutchinſon, a viſionary, intoxicated with the fumes of rabbinical learning, pretended to deduce all demonſtration from Hebrew roots, and to confine all human knowledge to the five books of Moſes. His diſciples became numerous after his death. With the methodiſts, they denied the merit of good works; and bitterly inveighed againſt Newton as an ignorant pretender, who had preſumed to ſet up his own ridiculous chimæras in oppoſition to the ſacred philoſophy of the Pentateuch.—But the moſt extraordinary ſect which diſtinguiſhed this reign was that of the Moravians, or Hernhutters, imported from Germany by Count Zinzendorf, who might have been termed the Melchiſedeck of his followers, inaſmuch as he aſſumed among them the threefold character of prophet, prieſt, and king. They could not be ſo properly ſtyled a ſect, as the diſciples of an original, who had invented a new ſyſtem of religion. Their chief adoration was paid to the ſecond perſon in the trinity: the firſt they treated with the moſt ſhocking neglect. Some of their tenets were blaſphemous, ſome indecent, and others ridicuouſly abſurd. Their diſcipline was a ſtrange mixture of devotion and impurity. Their exterior worſhip conſiſted of hymns, prayers, and ſermons; the hymns extremely ludicrous, and often indecent, alluding to the ſide-hole or wound which Chriſt received from a ſpear in his ſide while he remained upon the croſs. Their ſermons frequently contained very groſs incentives to the work of propagation. Their private exerciſes are ſaid to have abounded with ſuch rites and myſteries as we cannot explain with any regard to decorum.

Many ingenious treatiſes on metaphyſics and morality appeared in the courſe of this reign, and a philoſophical ſpirit of enquiry diffuſed itſelf to the fartheſt extremities of the united kingdoms. Though few diſcoveries of importance were made in medicine, yet that art was well underſtood in all its different branches, and many of its profeſſors diſtinguiſhed themſelves in other provinces of literature. Beſides the medical Eſſays of London and Edinburgh, the phyſician's library was enriched with many uſeful modern productions; with the works of the claſſical Friend, the elegant Mead, the accurate Huxham, and the philoſophical Pringle. The art of midwifery was elucidated by ſcience, reduced to fixed principles, and almoſt wholly conſigned into the hands of men practitioners. The reſearches of anatomy were proſecuted to ſome curious diſcoveries, by the ingenuity and dexterity of Hunter and Monro. The numerous hoſpitals in London contributed to the improvement of ſurgery, which was brought to perfection under the auſpices of Cheſelden and Sharpe.

Genius in writing ſpontaneouſly aroſe; and, though neglected by the great, flouriſhed under the culture of a public which had pretenſions to taſte, and piqued itſelf on encouraging literary merit: Swift and Pope we have mentioned on another occaſion. Young ſtill ſurvived, a venerable monument of poetical talents. Thomſon, the poet of the ſeaſons, diſplayed a luxuriancy of genius in deſcribing the beauties of nature. Akenſide and Armſtrong excelled in didactic poetry. Even the Epopœa did not diſdain an Engliſh dreſs; but appeared to advantage in the Leonidas of Glover, and the Epigoniad of Wilkie. The public acknowledged a conſiderable ſhare of dramatic merit in the tragedies of Young, Mallet, Home, and ſome other leſs diſtinguiſhed authors. Very few regular comedies, during this period, were exhibited on the Engliſh theatre; which, however, produced many leſs laboured pieces, abounding with ſatire, wit, and humour. The Careleſs Huſband of Cibber, and Suſpicious Huſband of Hoadly, are the only comedies of this age that bid fair for reaching poſterity. The genius of Cervantes was transfuſed into the novels of Fielding, who painted the characters and ridiculed the follies of life, with equal ſtrength, humour, and propriety. The field of hiſtory and biography was cultivated by many writers of ability; among whom we diſtinguiſh Guthrie, Ralph, Carte, the learned and elegant Robertſon, and, above all, the ingenious, penetrating, and comprehenſive, Hume, whom we rank among the firſt writers of the age, both as an hiſtorian and philoſopher. Nor let us forget the merit conſpicuous in the works of Campbell, remarkable for candour, intelligence, and preciſion.—Johnſon, inferior to none in philoſophy, philology, poetry, and claſſical learning, ſtands foremoſt as an eſſayiſt, juſtly admired for the dignity, ſtrength, and variety, of his ſtyle, as well as for the agreeable manner in which he inveſtigates the human heart, tracing every intereſting emotion, and opening all the ſources of morality.—The laudable aim of enliſting the paſſions on the ſide of virtue was ſucceſsfully purſued by Richardſon, in his Pamela, Clariſſa, and Grandiſon; a ſpecies of writing equally new and extraordinary, where, mingled with ſo much ſuperfluity, we find a ſublime ſyſtem of ethics, an amazing knowledge and command of human nature.—Many of the Greek and Roman claſſics made their appearance in Engliſh tranſlation, which were favourably received as works of merit; among theſe we place, after Pope's Homer, Virgil by Pitt and Warton, Horace by Francis, Polybius by Hampton, and Sophocles by Franklin. Never, indeed, was the purſuit after knowledge ſo univerſal, or literary merit more regarded, than at this juncture, by the body of the Britiſh nation; but it was honoured by no attention from the throne, and little indulgence did it reap from the liberality of particular patrons.

England was not defective in other arts that embelliſh and amuſe. Muſic became a faſhionable ſtudy, and its profeſſors were generally careſſed by the public. An Italian opera was maintained at a great expence, and well ſupplied with foreign performers. Private concerts were inſtituted in every corner of the metropolis. The compoſitions of Handel were univerſally admired, and he himſelf lived in affluence. Among the few natives of England who diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their talents in this art, Green, Howard, Arne, and Boyce, were the moſt remarkable.

The Britiſh ſoil, which had hitherto been barren in the article of painting, now produced ſome artiſts of extraordinary merit. Hogarth excelled all the world in exhibiting the ſcenes of ordinary life; in humour, character, and expreſſion. Hayman became eminent for hiſtorical deſigns and converſation pieces. Reynolds and Ramſay diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their ſuperior merit in portraits; a branch that was ſucceſsfully cultivated by many other Engliſh painters. Wootton was famous for repreſenting live animals in general; Seymour for race-horſes; Lambert, and the Smiths, for landſcapes; and Scot for ſea-pieces. Several ſpirited attempts were made on hiſtorical ſubjects, but little progreſs was made in the ſublime parts of painting. Eſſays of this kind were diſcouraged by a falſe taſte, founded upon a reprobation of Britiſh genius. The art of engraving was brought to perfection by Strange, and laudably practiſed by Grignon, Baron, Ravenet, and ſeveral other maſters; great improvements were made in mezzotinto, miniature, and enamel. Many fair monuments of ſculpture or ſtatuary were raiſed by Ryſbrach, Roubilliac, and Wilſon. Architecture, which had been cheriſhed by the elegant taſte of Burlington, ſoon became a favourite ſtudy; and many magnificent edifices were reared in different parts of the kingdom. Ornaments were carved in wood, and moulded in ſtucco, with all the delicacy of execution: but a paſſion for novelty had introduced into gardening, building, and furniture, an abſurd Chineſe taſte, equally void of beauty and convenience.

George II. by his queen Caroline, had two ſons and five daughters who attained the age of maturity. Frederic prince of Wales, father to his preſent majeſty; William duke of Cumberland; Anne, the princeſs royal, married to the late Prince of Orange, and mother to the preſent Stadtholder; Mary, landgraviate of Heſſe-Caſſel; Louiſa, was Queen of Denmark; Amelia and Carolina, were never married.

THE REIGN OF HIS PRESENT MAJESTY, GEORGE III.

KING George III. aſcended the throne amidſt the greateſt ſucceſſes both by ſea and land. At this time, indeed the efforts of Britain in every quarter of the globe were truly aſtoniſhing. The King of Pruſſia received a ſubſidy; a large body of Engliſh forces commanded the extenſive peninſula of India; another army of twenty thouſand men confirmed their conqueſts in North America; thirty thouſand men were employed in Germany; and a great many more were diſperſed in the different garriſons in different parts of the world: but all this was ſurpaſſed by the aſtoniſhing naval force, which carried command wherever it came, and had totally annihilated the French maritime power. The courage and conduct of the Engliſh admirals excelled every thing that had been heard of before; neither ſuperior force, nor number, nor even the terrors of the tempeſt, could intimidate them.

His preſent majeſty upon meeting his parliament, November 18, 1760, confirmed the hopes of his allies, and gave aſſurances of his intentions to proſecute the war with vigour.

In his firſt ſpeech he declared, that "Born and educated in this country, he gloried in the name of

Briton; and the peculiar happineſs of his life would ever conſiſt in promoting the welfare of a people, whoſe loyalty and warm affection to him, he conſidered as the greateſt and moſt permanent ſecurity of his throne; and he doubted not but their ſteadineſs in thoſe principles, would equal the firmneſs of his invariable reſolution, to adhere to and ſtrengthen this excellent conſtitution in church and ſtate, and to maintain the toleration inviolable." He aſſured them, that "the civil and religious rights of his loving ſubjects were equally dear to him with the moſt valuable prerogatives of his crown; and as the ſureſt foundation of the whole, and the beſt means to draw down the divine favour on his reign, it was his fixed purpoſe to countenance and encourage the practice of true religion and virtue." After deſcribing the ſtate of affairs in Germany, his majeſty went on to ſay, "As my navy is the principal article of our natural ſtrength, it gives me much ſatisfaction to receive it in ſuch good condition; whilſt the fleet of France is weakened to ſuch a degree, that the ſmall remains of it have continued blocked up by my ſhips in their own ports; at the ſame time the French trade is reduced to the loweſt ebb; and with joy of heart I ſee the commerce of my kingdoms, that great ſource of our riches, and fixed object of my never-failing care and protection, flouriſhing to an extent unknown in any former war. The valour and intrepidity of my officers and forces, both at ſea and land, have been diſtinguiſhed ſo much to the glory of this nation, that I ſhould be wanting in juſtice to them, if I did not acknowledge it. This is a merit which I ſhall conſtantly encourage and reward; and I take this occaſion to declare that the zealous and uſeful ſervice of the militia, in the preſent arduous conjuncture, is very acceptable to me. In this ſtate I have found things at my acceſſion to the throne of my anceſtors; happy, in viewing the proſperous part of it; happier ſtill ſhould I have been, had I found my kingdoms, whoſe true intereſt I have entirely at heart, in full peace: but ſince the ambition, injurious encroachments, and dangerous deſigns of my enemies, rendered the war both juſt and neceſſary, and the generous overture, made laſt winter, towards a congreſs for a pacification, has not yet produced any ſuitable return, I am determined, with your cheerful and powerful aſſiſtance, to proſecute this war with vigour, in order to that deſirable object, a ſafe and honourable peace. For this purpoſe, it is abſolutely incumbent upon us to be early prepared; and I rely upon your zeal and hearty concurrence to ſupport the King of Pruſſia, and the reſt of my allies, and to make ample proviſion for carrying on the war, as the only means to bring our enemies to equitable terms of accommodation."

This ſpeech was received, perhaps, with more general and heart-felt approbation, than the moſt popular harangue that had ever been delivered from the throne within thoſe walls. The impreſſion which it made on thoſe who heard it, was greatly heightened by the melifluous cadences which accompanied the delivery of it. Addreſſes, full of loyalty and affection, were preſented to the new ſovereign by both houſes, and the fulleſt aſſurances given of their concurrence and ſupport, in the meaſures which ſhould be thought proper to adopt. The houſe of commons having appointed a committee of ſupply, it was therein reſolved, that the yearly ſum of 800,000l. ſhould be granted for his majeſty's houſehold, and to ſupport the honour and dignity of the crown, during life.

The proviſion made for the navy-ſervice was very ample: 70,000 ſeamen, including 18,355 marines, for thirteen months, at four pounds per man per month, amounting to the ſum of 3,640,000l. and for the ordinary of the navy and half-pay, 258,624l. for completing Haſlar hoſpital, 7,130l. towards Plymouth hoſpital, 10,000l. for tranſport-ſervice, between October

1, 1759, and September 30, 1760, including victualling land-forces, 479,035l. towards paying navy-debt, one million; towards building and rebuilding of ſhips for 1761, 200,000l. Among other ſervices for which proviſion was made, the committee granted 200,000l. to enable his majeſty to make a proper compenſation to the reſpective provinces in North-America, for the expences incurred by them, in levying, clothing, and paying, the troops raiſed by them, accordingly as the active vigour and ſtrenuous efforts of the reſpective provinces ſhould be thought to deſerve. To the Eaſt-India company was granted 20,000l. towards enabling them to defray the expence of a military force in their ſettlements, in lieu of a battalion removed from that ſervice: 10,500l. for maintaining the ſettlement of Nova Scotia; and 4,300l. on account, for the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia: 13,000l. was allotted for maintaining and ſupporting the fort of Anamaboe, and the other Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa: they granted one million upon account, for enabling his majeſty to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred, or to be incurred, for the ſervice of the current year; and to take all ſuch meaſures as might be neceſſary to diſappoint or defeat any enterprizes or deſigns of the enemy, and as the exigencies of affairs might require.

The ſum total of the ſupplies granted for the ſervice of the year 1761, amounted to 18,816,119l. which immenſe ſupply was raiſed by a continuation of the land and malt-taxes, which conſtituted the ſtanding revenue of the nation, and by borrowing the ſum of 12,000,000l. the intereſt upon which to be paid by an additional duty of three-pence per barrel on beer and ale; by a continuation, for ſeven years, of the duties of 10s. per ton upon all wines, vinegar, cider, and beer, imported into Great Britain, formerly granted by act of parliament for defraying the charges of the mint: by loans on Exchequer-bills for 1,500,000l. to be charged on the firſt aids to be granted in the next ſeſſion of parliament: by a ſum remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer, being part of 90,000l. granted to the late king in 1759, upon account, towards defraying the charge of the militia: and by iſſuing 1,762,400l. out of the ſinking fund.

Before the parliament roſe, Mr. Onſlow, who had long officiated as ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, with dignity, capacity, and ſuch acknowledged candour as to have gained him the eſteem of all parties, declared his intention of retiring from that honourable poſt, on account of his age and infirmities. The houſe, upon being informed hereof, unanimouſly reſolved, that their thanks ſhould be given to Mr. Speaker, for his conſtant and unwearied attendance in the chair, during the courſe of above thirty-three years, in five ſucceſſive parliaments; for the unſhaken integrity and ſteady impartiality of his conduct there; and for the indefatigable pains he had, with uncommon abilities conſtantly taken, to promote the real intereſt of his king and country, to maintain the honour and dignity of parliament, and to preſerve inviolable the rights and privileges of the commons of Great Britain. Theſe honourable teſtimonies to his worth and talents overcame the venerable old man: his emotions were too ſtrong for utterance, and he anſwered only in broken ſentences, which indeed moſt forcibly expreſſed the ſenſe he had of this mark of reſpect. Mr. Onſlow afterwards received from his majeſty a grant of 3,000l. per annum, for his own life and that of his ſon. The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 19th of March, with a ſpeech from the throne. After which the parliament, having ſat the term of ſeven years, was diſſolved, and writs for electing a new one were iſſued out.

The departments of government and the cabinet council, underwent but few changes at the commencement of this reign. The moſt important was the appointment of the Earl of Bute to be ſecretary of ſtate of the northern department in the place of the Earl of Holderneſſe, Mr. Pitt ſtill holding the other ſecretaryſhip. The Duke of Newcaſtle was continued at the head of the treaſury, and dealt out the public money with a laviſh hand: Earl Granville was preſident of the council, and Lord Anſon at the head of the board of admiralty: Earl Temple had the cuſtody of the privy-ſeal, and Mr. Legge was chancellor of the exchequer; but the latter was ſoon after diſplaced from his office: Mr Charles Townſhend was appointed ſecretary at war, and Mr. Fox remained paymaſter of the forces. Neither did any material changes take place among the commanders of the fleets of Great Britain. Admiral Holborne commanded at Spithead: Sir Edward Hawke and Sir Charles Hardy were ſtationaries in the bay of Quiberon: Sir Charles Saunders continued to ride triumphant in the Mediterranean: the Rear-admirals Stevens and Corniſh commanded the fleet in the Eaſt-Indies: in the Weſt, Rear-admiral Holmes was with the fleet ſtationed off Jamaica; Sir James Douglas with that at the Leeward Iſlands; Lord Colvil commanded a ſquadron at Halifax. Beſides theſe ſquadrons which had a ſpecific deſtination aſſigned them, others were ſent out under different commanders, with a view to annoy the enemy as circumſtances chanced to occur; many ſingle ſhips likewiſe cruiſed in and about the channel.

His majeſty, in the ſummer of the year 1761, acquainted his privy council, that "having nothing ſo much at heart as to procure the welfare and happineſs of his people, and to render the ſame ſtable and permanent to poſterity; for theſe purpoſes he had reſolved to demand in marriage the princeſs Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, a princeſs diſtinguiſhed by every eminent virtue and amiable endowment. In conſequence of which, the Earl of Harcourt, with a ſplendid retinue, was ſent to the court of Mecklenburg, to demand the princeſs in marriage. The ducheſſes of Ancaſter and Hamilton were appointed ladies of the bed-chamber, to attend her from the court in her paſſage to England; Lord Anſon, vice-admiral of Great Britain, commanded the ſquadron which was to convoy the royal yachts. The contract of marriage being ſigned by the Earl of Harcourt at Strelitz, her royal highneſs proceeded to Stade, accompanied by the reigning duke her brother; and on the 28th of Auguſt embarked for England, and landed at Harwich on the 16th of September, after a tedious voyage, in which the fleet had been annoyed by contrary winds and tempeſtuous weather. On the 8th, her royal highneſs arrived at St. James's palace, and at nine o'clock in the evening the nuptial ceremony was performed in the royal chapel. On the 22d of the ſame month, the ceremony of their majeſties coronation was performed in Weſtminſter abbey. The ſplendor and magnificence diſplayed on that occaſion, exhibited the fulleſt proof of the opulence of the nation.

We have already taken notice of the overtures which had been made towards a general peace at the cloſe of the year 1759. Although the court of France had then rejected them, yet they were afterwards reduced to ſomething of a ſpecific form. To adjuſt the quarrel between the empreſs queen and the King of Pruſſia, a congreſs was agreed to be held at Augſburg. Letters had alſo been exchanged between the Duke de Choiſeul on the part of France, and Mr. Pitt on the part of Great Britain, in order to form the groundwork of a treaty of peace between thoſe two nations.

Whilſt this correſpondence was carried on, a powerful armament, which, during the laſt ſummer, had continued inactive at Spithead, ſailed to attack the iſland of Belleiſle, ſituated about four leagues from the Point of Quiberon, on the coaſt of Bretagne. The fleet was under the command of Commodore Keppel, and the land-forces under General Hodgſon. The fleet arrived before Belleiſle on the 7th of April. It was agreed to attempt to land on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the iſland in a ſandy bay, near Lochmaria Point.

Here the enemy were in poſſeſſion of a little fort; they had moreover entrenched themſelves on an hill exceſſively ſteep, and the foot of which was ſcarped away. The attempt was made in three places with great reſolution; a few grenadiers got on ſhore, and formed themſelves; but as they were not ſupported, they were, for the greater part, made priſoners. The reſt of the army, after ſeveral very brave and repeated efforts, being wholly unable to force the enemies lines, or make good their landing, were obliged to retire with loſs; what added to the diſaſter was, that ſeveral of the flat-bottomed veſſels were deſtroyed or damaged in a hard gale, which followed on our retiring from the ſhore. This made the proſpect of any future attempt more unpleaſing even than the firſt. In this attack we loſt in killed, wounded, and priſoners, near five hundred men.

Neither commanders nor ſoldiers were however diſpirited by this mortifying repulſe. They reſolved, if poſſible, not to return without effect, and then determined diligently to ſearch the whole coaſt, in order to find a place more favourable for another attack. The view indeed was not encouraging. The iſland is naturally a fortification; and what nature had left undone to make it ſuch, had been amply ſupplied by art.

It was a long time after this firſt failure before the weather would give our commanders an opportunity of a ſecond trial; however, they perſiſted with the utmoſt ſteadineſs, and found at length a convenient ſituation. Not that it was a part of the coaſt leſs ſtrong than the reſt; on the contrary, they built their principal hopes on the exceſſive ſteepneſs and difficulty of the rocks, which had rendered the enemy rather leſs attentive on this quarter. This arduous attempt was made at a bold rocky ſhore, near the above mentioned point of Lochmaria. Beſides the principal attack, two feints were made at the ſame time, to diſtract the enemy, whilſt the men of war directed their fire with great judgment and effect on the hills. Theſe manœuvres gave Brigadier-general Lambert, with a handful of men, an opportunity of climbing up a very ſteep rock without moleſtation. This little body, having thus proſperouſly gained the top of the hill, formed themſelves in good order, and without delay. They were immediately attacked by three hundred of the French, but they maintained their advantage with reſolution until the whole corps of Brigadier Lambert, which now had aſcended in the ſame manner, arrived to their aſſiſtance, and repulſed the enemy.

The landing of all the forces was made good in a ſhort time after. The loſs in this daring and ſucceſsful attempt was inconſiderable. In one or two places the enemy ſeemed diſpoſed to make ſome ſtand; but the body of light-horſe, which was embarked in this expedition, ſoon drove them to the town, and laid all quite open to the intrenchments before it. The great difficulty now conſiſted in bringing forward the cannon, which were firſt to be dragged up the rocks, and afterwards, for two leagues, along a very rugged and broken road. This neceſſarily took up ſome time. However, the ſiege was commenced with vigour; and the garriſon, commanded by the Chevalier de St. Croix, a brave and experienced officer, threatened on their ſide a long and obſtinate defence. Nothing, in fact, was deficient on either part. The enemy made ſome ſallies; one of them with conſiderable effect; Major-general Crawford was made priſoner on this occaſion; but our troops were only animated by theſe checks. A furious attack was made upon the enemies lines which covered the town; and they were carried without much loſs; principally by the uncommon intrepidity of a corps of marines which had been but newly raiſed.

No action of greater ſpirit and gallantry had been performed during the whole war.

The town was now entirely abandoned, and the defence confined to the citadel. It was obvious, that, as our fleet prevented all communication with the continent, and thereby cut off all hope of relief, the place muſt neceſſarily be reduced; but St. Croix was reſolved to provide for his own honour, when he could not for the preſervation of the place entruſted to him; and, ſince he could not maintain it, to ſell it as dear as poſſible. Accordingly, there was no mention of yielding, until the 7th of June, when there was no longer the ſlighteſt proſpect of ſuccour, and the place was by no means ſafely tenable. Then he capitulated, and the garriſon marched out with the honours of war.

Thus was the iſland of Belleiſle reduced under the Engliſh government, after a defence of two months. In this expedition we had about eighteen hundred men killed and wounded. The loſs moſt regretted was that of Sir W. Peere Williams, a young gentleman of great talents and expectations, and who had made a diſtinguiſhed figure in parliament. He had but newly entered into the ſervice. He was ſhot in the night, by having careleſsly approached too near a centinel of the enemy. He was the third gentleman of faſhion, whom, in this war, the love of enterprize had brought to an honourable death.

The operations againſt Belleiſle did not cauſe any interruption in the advances towards an accommodation. M. Buſſy arrived in England the latter end of May to negociate that important buſineſs; and Mr. Stanley, immediately after, ſet out for Paris for the ſame purpoſe.

In the mean time, the iſland of Dominica in the Weſt-Indies, one of thoſe which had formerly been called neutral, but which the French had acquired the poſſeſſion of by ſubduing the native Caribs, and had afterwards fortified and ſettled, was reduced by a ſmall armament under Lord Rollo and Sir James Douglas. This iſland is thirteen leagues in length, and nine at moſt in breadth. In the centre of it are inacceſſible mountains, which pour down numerous rivers of excellent water upon fruitful but uneven ground. The iſland contained at the time of its ſurrender about five hundred French inhabitants, beſides negro ſlaves, and a conſiderable number of native Caribbeans. The land-forces employed in this expedition conſiſted of ſome Americans and a body of regulars under Lieutenant-governor Melvil. Four ſhips of the line, viz. the Dublin, Belliqueux, Sutherland, and Montague, and ſome frigates, compoſed the naval force. They ſailed from Gaudaloupe on the 4th of June, 1760; and arrived off Roſeau, the principal town on the iſland, on the 6th. A ſummons was immediately ſent to the French governor, M. Lempric, to ſurrender the iſland, but after ſome heſitation he returned for anſwer, that he would defend the place. The ſhips were thereupon brought as cloſe as poſſible, where they anchored, and under cover of their fire the troops landed, and that very evening the French entrenchments were ſtormed by a corps of grenadiers, conſiſting of the companies of the fourth and twenty-ſecond regiments, whilſt the ſhips kept up a briſk and well-directed cannonade, which greatly annoyed the enemy. This conqueſt was made with the loſs of only eight men killed and wounded. Hereupon the whole iſland ſurrendered, and the inhabitants came in, taking the oaths of ſubmiſſion and ſurrender of arms. As the iſland was thus maſtered by aſſault, no other terms were given the vanquiſhed than a protection, until his majeſty's pleaſure ſhould be known.

Whilſt the force at the Leeward Iſlands was thus uſefully employed, Rear-admiral Holmes was no leſs active on his ſtation at Jamaica. Having received intelligence in the beginning of June, that ſeveral ſhips of war belonging to the enemy had ſailed from Port Louis, and in particular that the St. Anne had juſt quitted Port au Prince, he ſailed with his ſquadron in queſt of her, being himſelf on-broad the Hampſhire. On the 13th he fell in with the St. Anne, and chaſed her to leeward, down upon the Centaur. Her captain, diſcovering this laſt ſhip, hauled up between them, ran cloſe in ſhore, until he was becalmed about a league to the northward of Donna Maria bay, and began to fire his ſtern-chaſe guns; but, when the Centaur came alongſide, he ſtruck his colours. The St. Anne was a beautiful new ſhip, pierced for 64 guns, but mounting only 40, manned with 389 mariners and ſoldiers, under the command of M. Aiguillon; and was carrying home a cargo of indigo, coffee, and ſugar, to a conſiderable value.

In the Eaſt-Indies the intereſts of Great Britain proſpered, ſome inconſiderable inſtances of loſs alone excepted. Theſe loſſes we ſhall relate, more for the ſake of pointing out a ſingular inſtance of French fineſſe, than on account of the real importance of the events themſelves.

The Engliſh Eaſt-India company carried on ſome trade with Perſia notwithſtanding the confuſion that had for many years prevailed in that empire, for which purpoſe a houſe and factory were eſtabliſhed at Gombroon, near the entrance into the gulph of Baſſora. On the 13th of October, 1759, four French ſhips, one of them mounting ſixty-four guns, appeared in the road, and after burning an Engliſh veſſel they found there, the crew of which eſcaped to the factory, they landed three hundred men, with two mortars and four pieces of cannon, with which they began to fire at the factory-houſe, where there were but ſixteen men, including the crew of the burnt ſhip. A meſſage was ſent from the French camp, ſummoning the Engliſh to ſurrender, or otherwiſe to expect no quarter. Hereupon the beſieged offered to ſurrender themſelves priſoners of war; but the French inſiſted on a formal capitulation to be ſigned by both parties, the terms of which they preſcribed; the fourth, fifth, and ſixth, articles, ran thus: "4. Whereas M. d'Eſtaing, brigadier of foot, and formerly a priſoner to his Britannic majeſty, is now on-board the ſhip Condé, in his way to Europe, by the way of Baſſora, being deſirous of rendering more ſecure the intelligence received of an exchange having been made in his behalf, between Mr. Pigot, governor of Madras, and M. Lally, lieutenant-general; it is now agreed between the beſiegers and beſieged, that Alexander Douglas, Eſq. chief of the factory, with ſix others therein named, are lawfully exchanged for M. d'Eſtaing, and they are at full liberty to go where they pleaſe; in conſequence of which M. d'Eſtaing is under no other obligation, than what is ſpecified in the ſixth article. 5. Though the preſent exchange of priſoners is an unneceſſary precaution in behalf of M. d'Eſtaing, yet all perſons mentioned in the preceding article are abſolutely free; but ſhould M. d'Eſtaing have been already exchanged, as he undoubtedly is, in that caſe for ſeven perſons already mentioned, who now enjoy their liberty, a like number, and of equal ſtation, of French ſubjects, are to be releaſed, whenever a cartel is made. 6. M. d'Eſtaing, in order to fulfil with the greateſt exactitude the promiſe he made Governor Pigot, that he would not take up arms againſt the Engliſh *on the Coromandel coaſt only*, for the ſpace of eighteen months, reckoning from the 1ſt of May, 1759, deſires it may be inſerted in the preſent capitulation, that notwithſtanding he is now exchanged, yet he will keep the promiſe he made Governor Pigot."

The abſurdity of this pretented exchange is evident on the very face of it. By the cartel then ſubſiſting between the two nations, the ranſom of a brigadier general is ſettled at nine hundred florins, whereas the ranſom of a lieutenant of foot, the higheſt rank any gentleman of the factory could claim, was but twenty four florins, ſo that conſidering every man in the factory as a lieutenant of foot, they would not amount to an equivalent to M. d'Eſtaing. It is farther to be remarked, that as this French officer was allowed to return home upon his parole of honour, it cannot be ſuppoſed that this permiſſion reſtrained him merely from bearing arms againſt the Engliſh on the coaſt of Coromandel. Whenever ſuch a favour is granted to a priſoner without any condition or promiſe expreſſed, the implied condition is always ſuppoſed to be, that he ſhall not carry arms againſt the power that grants it, but ſhall always be ready to return when called for, during the continuance of the war, unleſs in the mean time ranſomed or exchanged.

D'Eſtaing, being liberated by this ſubterfuge, obtained the command of two frigates, with which he proceeded to Bencoolen on the iſland of Sumatra, from which ſettlement the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company draw the chief of their pepper. In April 1760, Fort Marlborough ſubmitted to the ſmall force that appeared againſt it. The Denham Indiaman, Captain Tryon, which lay there, was burnt. With this principal ſettlement all the inferior forts and factories which the company held on the iſland, fell into the the hands of the French. The many brilliant inſtances of intrepidity which had been diſplayed by the Engliſh, did not prove effectual to excite a brave ſpirit of defence on this occaſion.

Ample compenſation was, however, made for this loſs by the reduction of Pondicherry a ſhort time after. This was the only place of any conſequence that remained to the French in any part of the continent of India, after their defeat near Wandewaſh, the taking the city of Arcot, and the reduction of the fortreſſes of Chittiput and Carrical. This emporium of the French commerce in the eaſt, beautifully built, ſtrongly fortified, and four leagues in circuit, ſeemed rather the capital of a kingdom than a trading eſtabliſhment. It is ſituated on the coaſt of Malabar, about forty miles from the Engliſh ſettlement of Madras, which, in the days of its proſperity, it rivalled, if not exceeded, in trade, opulence, and ſplendor; and it ſtill remained the depoſitory of whatever wealth was left to the French after the reverſe of their fortunes in war.

Colonel Coote began the blockade of Pondicherry with the land-forces, and the marines under Admiral Stevens, as a regular ſiege could not be begun until after the rainy ſeaſon, which was then about to ſet in. General Lally, who commanded there, determined to defend the place to the laſt extremity. The blockade was maintained with great ſpirit and perſeverance for ſeven months, during which time thoſe within its walls ſuffered ſorely from famine. To render the ſeverities ariſing from the ſituation of this diſtreſſed garriſon more aggravated, Colonel Coote cauſed the batteries to be erected at a diſtance, not ſo much with a view to deſtroy the town, as to harraſs the enemy with a heavier duty in defending their fortifications: but no ſooner had the periodical rains, which deluge that country during the months of October and November ceaſed, than four batteries began to infilade the ſtreets, whilſt others approached nearer to play upon the works. All the hopes of the beſieged now reſted on the arrival of their fleet. In the mean time extreme diſtreſs prevailed. The moſt loathſome animals were eagerly devoured by the famiſhed ſoldiery, and ſo eſtimable had even ſuch kinds of food become, that ſixteen rupees, or forty ſhillings ſterling, were paid for a dog.

Whilſt every thing thus tended to make the fate of Pondicherry inevitable, the year 1761 was uſhered in with a tremendous hurricane, which not only drove the Britiſh fleet, which lay before its port, from that ſtation, but menaced deſtruction to the whole armament, conſiſting of eight ſail of the line, two frigates, a fire-ſhip, and a ſhip with ſtores from Madras; in all twelve ſail.

From eight o'clock the wind blew in ſqualls, every one ſtronger than the laſt, until ten, when the admiral's ſhip, Norfolk, cut her cable, and fired the ſignal for the other ſhips to do ſo too; but the ſignal guns were not heard; and the ſhips, in obedience to the diſcipline of the navy, rode until their cables parted with the ſtrain, when they with much difficulty got before the wind, none able to ſet more than a ſingle ſail, and none without ſplitting ſeveral. Every minute increaſed the ſtorm until twelve, by which time the wind had veered from the north weſt, where it began, to the north eaſt; when it ſuddenly fell ſtark calm with thick haze all round. In a few minutes the wind flew up from the ſouth-eaſt, and came at once in full ſtrength with much greater fury than it had blown from the other quarter.

By the delay of not getting early under ſail whilſt the ſtorm was from the north, moſt of the ſhips loſt the opportunity of gaining ſufficient ſea-room before it came on from the ſouth-eaſt. The firſt guſt of this wind laid the Panther on her beams, and the ſea breaking over her, Captain Affleck, who commanded her, cut away the mizen; and this not anſwering, the main-maſt likewiſe, which broke below the upper deck, tore it up, and continued ſome time encumbering over the ſide of the ſhip, withot going clear off into the ſea, until the ſhock of a wave ſent it away. The ſhip then righted, the reefed foreſail ſtood, and brought her back into fourteen fathom water, when ſhe dropped the ſheet anchor; but not bringing up, (which means turning to ride with her head to the anchor,) they cut away the fore-maſt, which carried away the bowſprit, when the ſhip came round; and thus rode out the ſtorm. The America, Medway, and Falmouth, cutting away all their maſts on the different neceſſities with the ſame prudence, rode it out likewiſe, after they had anchored again nearly in the ſame ſoundings as the Panther.

The Newcaſtle, the Queenborough frigate, and the Protector fire-ſhip, returning with the ſouth-eaſt ſtorm, miſtook their ſoundings, and drove towards the ſhore, without knowing where they were, or attempting to anchor. The roaring of the ſurf was not to be diſtinguiſhed in the general tumult of the elements; and the danger was not diſcovered until it was too late, and the three ſhips came aſhore about two miles to the ſouth of Pondicherry; but only ſeven in all the crews periſhed, who were knocked over-board by the ſhock of ſtriking aground.

The Duke of Aquitain, the Sunderland, and the Duke ſtore-ſhip, unfortunately preſerved all their maſts through both the ſtorms, until they were driven back to the neceſſity of anchoring; and in bringing up with them ſtanding all the three either broached to, or overſet, and went to the bottom. Eleven hundred Europeans periſhed in theſe ſhips; only ſeven, and ſeven laſcars, were ſaved out of the crews, who were picked up the next day, floating on pieces of wreck.

This calamity to the Britiſh fleet happening at the very time when the French troops in Pondicherry were ſinking into deſpair, could not fail of raiſing them to a degree of exultation. Though actually enduring all the miſeries of famine, they enjoyed, in anticipation, all the bleſſings of abundance by this unlooked for event; ſo ready is the human mind to confide in every flattering proſpect of relief, when oppreſſed by an inſupportable weight of affliction. General Lally no ſooner ſaw the ſtorm ſubſide, and that the Engliſh fleet no longer encloſed his port, than his warmeſt wiſhes ſeemed to be realized, and in the fullneſs of his heart he wrote the following letter to Mr. Raymond, the French reſident at Pallicat, dated Pondicherry, 2d of January, 1761.

"Mr. Raymond,—The Engliſh ſquadron is no more, ſir; out of the twelve ſhips they had in our road, ſeven are loſt, crews and all; the four others diſmaſted; and it appears there is no more than one frigate that hath eſcaped, therefore don't loſe an inſtant to ſend us chelingoes upon chelingoes loaded with rice; the Dutch have nothing to fear now; beſides (according to the law of nations) they are only to ſend us no proviſions themſelves, and we are no more blocked up by ſea. The ſaving of Pondicherry hath been in your power once already; if you miſs the preſent opportunity, it will be entirely your fault: do not forget alſo ſome ſmall chelingoes; offer great rewards; I expect ſeventeen thouſand Marattas within theſe four days. In ſhort, riſque all, attempt all, force all, and ſend us ſome rice, ſhould it be but half a garſe at a time. LALLY."—This letter was intercepted by the Engliſh on its paſſage.

The anxiety of the Engliſh for the miſſing ſhips continued until ſun-ſet of the next day, when the Norfolk, with Admiral Stevens's flag, was diſcovered in the offing. The ſhip, prepared at all points, before the ſouth-eaſt ſtorm aroſe, ſcudded before it with a ſtay ſail, without loſing a maſt, and without being obliged to anchor until the wind fell; the apprehenſion of more bad weather made the admiral put out again to ſea; when he met the Liverpool entirely diſmaſted. Soon after they were joined by the Grafton, who gave the welcome information that ſhe had left, on the 28th of December, the Lenox, Admiral Corniſh, with the York and Weymouth, thirty leagues off the land: they were all returning together from Trincomalee: the Grafton, after parting with them, met hard weather during the hours in which the ſtorm was raging near the coaſt. The admiral, leaving her to take care of the Liverpool, anchored in the road of Pondicherry the next morning, and they in the afternoon. The other three ſhips came in the next day. On the

7th came in the Saliſbury, with the prize la Compagnie des Indes, likewiſe from Trincomalee, and the Tiger from Madras, where the violence of the ſtorm had not reached. No more were to be expected; for the Elizabeth and the South-Sea-Caſtle, wanting the dock, were failed for Bombay, with the two other prizes, the Hermione and Baleine. But by this time, the four diſmaſted ſhips, although not quite refitted, were again in a condition to act on neceſſity; and thus in a week after the ſtorm, which had raiſed ſuch hopes of deliverance in the garriſon of Pondicherry, they ſaw the road again blockaded by eleven ſail of the line, and although three of them were only of fifty guns, all were manned above their complements by the addition of crews which had been ſaved from the three ſtranded ſhips. Their boats, continually cruizing, intercepted or drove away whatſoever embarkations came towards the road with proviſions; but ſeveral boats, which were launched from the town in the three nights immediately after the ſtorm, favoured by the wind, the current, and the darkneſs, eſcaped to the ſouthward.

Admiral Stevens immediately diſpatched letters to all the ſettlements of the Dutch and Danes in that neighbourhood, acquainting them with the ſtation and condition of his fleet; and at the ſame time aſſuring them, that all veſſels which might be found infringing the neutrality, by attempting to convey proviſions to the French in Pondicherry, would be ſeized as lawful prizes. Notwithſtanding Lally found to his unſpeakable diſcomfit that the Britiſh fleet did exiſt, and that it was ſtill in every reſpect effectual to blaſt all his hopes, yet nothing could bend the ſpirit of this extraordinary man, and he would make no overtures to ſurrender the town. A large battery, which had been erected, was then playing with great ſucceſs, by which a breach in the walls was effected, whilſt not more than one days proviſions, even of the moſt filthy kind, remained for the emaciated wretches within; but the haughty ſpirit of the commander was ſtill proof againſt theſe reiterated evils. The inhabitants of the place at length driven to deſpair, made offers of capitulation; but, as the governor would not permit them to aſk any terms, the Britiſh troops at length became maſters of the town, on the 16th of January, 1761, which was thereby expoſed to all the fury of a rapacious ſoldiery. The garriſon conſiſted of one thouſand four hundred French troops, and was well ſupplied with military ſtores. The riches of the place, which were very conſiderable, were transferred from their miſerable poſſeſſors to their brave and perſevering aſſailants.

The taking of Pondicherry annihilated the French power in India. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that both the Engliſh and French commander in chief were natives of the kingdom of Ireland.

We have already ſeen that nation ſtripped of all her poſſeſſions in Bengal by the bravery and conduct of Colonel Clive and Admiral Watſon; the extenſive coaſt of Coromandel now became the reward of Britiſh valour; whereby a foundation was laid for eſtabliſhing ſuch a power in the eaſt, as no European nation had before poſſeſſed, or indeed had ever aſpired to.

The very day that the Engliſh troops entered Pondicherry, a deciſive battle was fought by Major Carnac at the head of twenty thouſand blacks and five hundred Engliſh troops, and an army of eighty thouſand Indians, with the emperor, or, as he is ſtyled in Europe, the great mogul, reinforced by about two hundred French, which had been collected from all parts, by an adventurer named Law, (nephew to that Law ſo well known by the Miſſiſſippi ſcheme.) The fortune of the day was as deciſive as poſſible: the emperor Shah Zaddar, as well as the French partizan, were made priſoners; and the vaſt empire of

Hindooſtan became ſubject to the arbitrement of the victors.

We ſhall now proceed to relate the principal engagements which happened between ſingle ſhips and ſmall ſquadrons belonging to the two nations.

The Unicorn frigate, of twenty-eight guns and two hundred men, commanded by Captain Hunt, on the 8th of January fell in with a French frigate called the Veſtal, off the Penmarks. The action continued very briſkly for two hours, when the French ſhip ſtruck. She mounted thirty guns, and had two hundred and twenty men. Captain Hunt received a wound in the early part of the engagement, of which he died. The French captain likewiſe, M. Boiſbertelot, had his leg ſhot away, and died the day after the action.

Captain Elphington, of the Richmond frigate of thirty-two guns, fell in with the Felicité, a French ſhip of thirty-two guns bound to Martinico, with a cargo valued at thirty thouſand pounds ſterling. The action happened near St. Graveſande, about eight miles from the Hague. After an engagement of two hours, both ſhips ran aſhore alongſide of each other, ſtill continuing the engagement for a ſhort time, when the French mariners abandoned their ſhip and made to the ſhore; the Richmond ſoon after floated, but the French ſhip was entirely deſtroyed. This frigate ſailed out of Dunkirk in company with the Hermione, another ſhip of the ſame force and value, which was loſt coming out of the harbour. The young Prince of Orange, General York, and Count d'Affry, the French miniſter at the Hague, were ſpectators of this action. The French court loudly complained of this attack as a violation of the Dutch neutrality, and demanded reparation for the inſult and damage they had ſuſtained. Accordingly the ſtates-general made ſome remonſtrances to the court of London, and the

Britiſh miniſtry found means to remove all cauſe of miſunderſtanding on the account.

In the courſe of the ſame month, Captain Hood, of the Minerva frigate, cruiſing in the chops of the channel, deſcried a great ſhip of two decks ſteering to the weſtward, and found it was the Warwick, an Engliſh ſhip, which had carried ſixty guns, and been taken by the enemy in the Weſt-Indies. She was now mounted with thirty-four guns, and commanded by M. le Venor de Belair. Her crew amounted to two hundred and ninety-five men, ſeventy-four of whom were ſoldiers. She was laden with ammunition, ſtores, and proviſions, for the French ſettlements in the Eaſt-Indies. Captain Hood, notwithſtanding her ſuperior ſize, attacked her without heſitation, and was very warmly received. Several maſts in both ſhips were ſhot away, and the ſhips fell foul of one another while the ſea ran very high; ſo that the crews on both ſides were greatly encumbered by their broken maſts and ſhattered rigging. At length the waves ſeparated them, and the Warwick fell to leeward. Captain Hood having cleared his ſhip, bore directly down upon the enemy: the engagement was thereupon renewed, and laſted about an hour; at length the French captain ſtruck his colours, having had fourteen men killed and thirty wounded. The loſs on-board the Minerva was equal, and all her maſts went by the board, notwithſtanding which ſhe brought her prize in triumph to Spithead.—In the ſame cruiſe, Captain Hood took the Ecureuil privateer, from Bayonne, of fourteen guns and one hundred and twenty-four men.

Captain Nightingale, of the Vengeance, twenty-ſix guns, and two hundred men, on the 13th of March fell in with the Entreprenant, pierced for forty-four but carrying only twenty-ſix guns, two hundred and three men, equipped for war or merchandize, and with a rich cargo for St. Domingo. This ſhip had ſailed from Bourdeaux on the 8th, and was encountered near the land's end. Three ſucceſſive actions were maintained between the two ſhips, in which the rigging and maſts of the Vengeance ſuffered conſiderably, and the ſhip was five times on fire. The laſt engagement continued for an hour and a half within piſtol-ſhot, when the enemy called for quarter. Six men were killed, and twenty-ſeven dangerouſly wounded, on-board the Vengeance; fifteen were killed, and twenty-four wounded, on-board the French ſhip.

The Prince George, Captain Read, twenty-four guns, and one hundred and eight men, took a French outward-bound Eaſt-Indiaman of ſix hundred tons, twenty-two guns, and two hundred and eight men, laden with ſtores, after an obſtinate engagement, in which the Engliſh loſt ſeventy-two men, and the French ſixty.

Captain Potts of the Julius Cæſar, from Jamaica, gallantly cleared himſelf of ſix French privateers. This was thought to be as brave an action as any performed ſince the commencement of the war.

Mr. M'Bride, being off Dunkirk with the Grace armed cutter, and obſerving a dogger privateer in the road, procured from the Maidſtone, Captain Digges, four boats manned and armed, with which he proceeded at ten o'clock at night to the road of Dunkirk; on approaching of which, the ſeamen laid all their oars acroſs, except two in each boat, which they muffled with baize to prevent their giving an alarm to the enemy. They rowed in that manner till they came within muſket-ſhot of the privateer; and, being hailed, they made no anſwer, but preſently boarded her on both ſides, and poſſeſſed themſelves of the ſhip without the loſs of a ſingle man. This bold exploit was atchieved within half gun-ſhot of a fort on the eaſt ſide of the harbour, which did not fire a ſingle ſhot.

On the 14th of Auguſt, the Bellona, Captain Faulkner, of ſeventy-four guns, in company with the Brilliant, Captain Logie, of thirty-ſix, gave chace to three ſail of ſhips off Cape Finiſterre. They proved to be the Courageux of ſeventy-four guns, and the Malicieux and Hermione frigates, of thirty-two guns each. The Brilliant engaged one frigate, and preſently ſuſtained both. The Bellona ſoon after came alongſide of the large ſhip, and in ten minutes from the commencement of the action the mizen-maſts of both ſhips were ſhot away, and in half an hour after, the French ſhip ſtruck. She had ſeven hundred men on-board, was commanded by M. Dugué Lambert, and bound to St. Domingo. The two frigates, ſeeing the fate of the other ſhip, bore away and eſcaped, neither of the Engliſh ſhips being in a condition to purſue them. The Bellona loſt ſix men killed, twenty-eight wounded; the Courageux loſt two hundred and forty ſlain, and one hundred and ten wounded; her captain received a wound in the neck, of which he died three weeks after at Liſbon; this ſhip had a cargo of great value on-board. The Brilliant loſt five men killed, and ſixteen wounded. When the priſoners were landed at Liſbon, they applied to the French conſul for relief, but without effect; whilſt the Engliſh factory there, commiſerating their unhappy and diſtreſſed ſituation, ſet on foot a ſubſcription, by which 230l. ſterling was raiſed for their relief. The two captains who had fought with ſo much bravery, now acquired equal honour by their humanity to their vanquiſhed enemies, by being the firſt and moſt liberal contributors to this ſubſcription. The like ſpirit of liberality prevailed in Great Britain, where about thirty thouſand French priſoners were confined. The wretched ſtate of poverty into which France was reduced, had cauſed that kingdom to fail in furniſhing the uſual ſupplies for the relief of theſe captives, by which means they were reduced to great extremities, until a voluntary ſubſcription, which was ſet on foot in England, fully ſupplied this failure of France, and theſe unhappy ſufferers to their maſter's quarrel were comfortably clothed and relieved.

To counterbalance theſe ſucceſſes, the Ajax, Captain Lindſey, one of the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company's ſhips, homeward bound from Bengal, freighted with a large quantity of diamonds, ſilk, muſlin, and other merchandize to the value of 200,000l. was taken off Cape Clear, and carried into Breſt. —The Grafton man of war, of twenty guns, was loſt on the 25th of October, off Burmudas, and fifty of her men were drowned. The Biddeford of twenty guns, ran aſhore on the 30th of December, on Hazeborough Sand near Yarmouth; Captain Gordon and one half of the crew periſhed; thoſe who eſcaped were quite exhauſted, having remained ſome days on the wreck without any other ſuſtenance than ſome raw meat and ſome ſpirituous liquors.

The war on the continent all this time, bore an appearance of no very favourable termination.

At the cloſe of the campaign in 1760, the French were in poſſeſſion of all the landgravate of Heſſe; they had alſo driven the allies from the Lower Rhine; and were beſides in poſſeſſion of Gottingen, which gave them acceſs to the electoral dominions of the King of Great Britain. The ſuperiority which the enemy poſſeſſed both in numbers and ſituation, determined Prince Ferdinand to enter upon action amidſt the ſeverity of winter. His army was therefore aſſembled early in February, 1761. The French were taken by ſurprize, and retreated on all ſides. In a ſhort time their army evacuated the territory of Heſſe, but ſtrongly garriſoned all the places of ſtrength which they held there. Gottingen and Caſſel, thus rendered formidable, were ſoon found to impede the progreſs of the allied army, and render its ſituation inſecure. Trenches were opened againſt the latter, but the inclemency of the ſeaſon, and the firmneſs of the beſieged, who fought under the command of the Count Broglio, at length obliged Prince Ferdinand to retreat in his turn, and to raiſe the ſiege; whereupon the allied army once more occupied the ſituation which they had quitted a few weeks before. But although they thereby abandoned the territories which they had rapidly recovered, yet they derived eſſential advantages from this enterprize, for the French had amaſſed great quantities of proviſions and military ſtores in theſe parts, many of which they deſtroyed in their retreat; but the precipitancy of it, and the cloſe manner in which Prince Ferdinand's army followed, occaſioned many magazines to fall into the hands of the purſuers; and this event materially influenced the operations of the whole campaign, and prevented the French from availing themſelves, in the manner which they otherwiſe would have done, of their ſuperiority in numbers.

The two armies were again quietly diſperſed into winter cantonments by the latter end of March; and it was not until the end of June that the French general began the operations of the campaign, after ſeveral movements and ſome ſkirmiſhes. On the 15th of July, Marſhal Broglio attacked the allied army, which was poſted at a village called Kirch Denkirn. He was received with ſuch firmneſs, that his troops were thrown into diſorder. The next day they renewed their efforts, but with no better ſucceſs: the whole army was thereupon obliged to retreat, having loſt about five thouſand in killed, wounded, and taken priſoners; the allies had about three hundred killed, two hundred wounded, and one thouſand made priſoners. A variety of ſpirited ſkirmiſhes followed, which almoſt uniformly terminated in the ſame manner.

Whilſt the army under Marſhal Broglio was oppoſed to that under Prince Ferdinand, another large body of French troops, commanded by the Prince de Soubiſe, penetrated into Weſtphalia, and ſeemed to indicate an intention of laying ſiege to Munſter. Nor did the efforts of France ſtop here; for at the ſame time a body of troops commanded by Prince Xavier of Saxony entered Hanover; took the city of Wolfenbuttle, and immediately inveſted Brunſwick, another place of ſtrength, lying a few miles farther north. In this attempt, however, the French were foiled by the activity and good conduct of the hereditary prince; he even recovered Wolfenbuttle, and forced the French to retreat out of the electorate. But, whilſt this indefatigable general was thus ſucceſsfully employed in one part, the Prince de Soubiſe took advantage of his abſence in Weſtphalia, and ravaged the whole territory with mercileſs ſeverity. Oſnaburg was ſubdued, and given up to pillage: the French advanced even into Eaſt Frieſland, reduced the important town of Embden, and laid the whole country under heavy contributions. Their inſatiable rapacity towards the proſtrate inhabitants of this wretched country, by rouſing the citizens of Bremen to make a vigorous ſtand, ſaved that city from the fate of the other towns, and thereby the large ſupply of proviſions and military ſtores, which were depoſited there, fortunately eſcaped. Theſe newly-acquired diſtricts remained in poſſeſſion of the French when the contending armies went into winter quarters; ſo that the iſſue of the campaign proved extremely diſadvantageous to the intereſts of the confederated powers.

The events of war were ſtill more unpropitious to the Pruſſian monarch. That great general, contrary to his former mode, had adopted a plan of defenſive war, from which he did not deviate during the campaign; ſo that the whole year paſſed without one regular battle being fought between any of the armies which overſpread the northern parts of Germany. Notwithſtanding this inactivity, not any one of his five campaigns had proved ſo ruinous to his affairs as that of the year 1761. The Ruſſians, dividing themſelves into two bodies, invaded Sileſia and Pomerania. In the former country they laid ſiege to Breſlau, and in the latter to Colberg. Tottleben alſo, who had commanded the Ruſſian armies, was now removed on a ſuſpicion that he had correſponded with the King of Pruſſia, and General Romanzow put in his place; by which it was expected that the Ruſſian operations would be more briſk this year than formerly.

The king continued ſtrongly encamped near Schweidnitz; where he was ſo cloſely watched by Generals Daun and Laudohn, that he could attempt nothing. However, he defeated the deſigns of the Ruſſians againſt Breſlau, by ſending General Platen to deſtroy their magazines; which he accompliſhed with great ſucceſs, at the ſame time cutting off a body of four thouſand of their troops. But this only brought the more ſure deſtruction upon Colberg; to which place that body of Ruſſians immediately marched, cruelly waſting the country as they went along. The King of Pruſſia could do nothing but ſend detachments of ſmall parties, which, though they could not oppoſe their enemies in the field, yet he hoped by cutting off the convoys of the enemy, might diſtreſs them to ſuch a degree as to oblige them to abandon the ſiege, or at leaſt protract it till the ſeverity of the winter ſhould render it impoſſible for them to carry on their operations. Thus he weakened his own army ſo much, that it was found requiſite to draw four thouſand men out of Schweidnitz in order to reinforce it; and no ſooner was this done, than General Laudohn ſuddenly attacked and took that fortreſs by a coup de main. —On the 1ſt of October, at three o'clock in the morning, the aſſault was made on all the four outworks. Three thouſand Pruſſians, and Lieutenant-general Zaſtrow, governor of the fortreſs, were made priſoners. The Auſtrians acknowledged to have loſt in this bold and ſucceſsful aſſault only ſix hundred men.

Colberg, which the Ruſſians had made many fruitleſs attempts to become maſters of during the war, was now the point to which they concentrated all their force. A fleet, amounting in the whole to forty ſail, encompaſſed its port, whilſt the army under Romanzow formed the ſiege by land. The place was defended by General Heyde, whoſe ability had hitherto baffled every attempt to ſubdue it; but at length, after a ſiege of ſix months, this gallant Pruſſian was compelled to ſubmit, and himſelf with his garriſon became priſoners of war, on the 16th of December. Being thus poſſeſſed of the key to the Baltic, the Ruſſians now, for the firſt time, took up their winter-quarters in Pomerania. At the cloſe of the year 1761, the King of Pruſſia's power had ſo crumbled away, that there ſeemed ſcarcely a poſſibility that he could be preſerved from deſtruction by any thing which lay within the compaſs of human exertions.

All this time an appearance of negociation had been carried on; but at laſt, the French having brought their deſigns with the court of Spain to a bearing, Mr. Buſſy delivered to Mr. Pitt a private memorial, ſignifying, that in order to eſtabliſh the peace on a laſting foundation, the King of Spain might be induced to guarantee the treaty; and, to prevent the differences which then ſubſiſted between Britain and Spain from producing a freſh war in Europe, he propoſed, that in this negociation the three points which had been diſputed between the crowns of England and Spain ſhould be finally ſettled. Firſt, The reſtitution of ſome captures made upon the Spaniſh flag. Secondly, The privilege of the Spaniſh nation to fiſh upon the banks of Newfoundland. Thirdly, The demolition of the Engliſh ſettlements made in the bay of Honduras.

It may be eaſily imagined, from the character of the then ſecretary of ſtate, in what manner he received theſe propoſals; he rejected with the utmoſt ſcorn the offer of negociating through an enemy humbled, and almoſt at his feet, the diſputes of his nation, with a power actually in friendſhip with us. He called upon the Spaniſh miniſter to diſavow the propoſitions which had been ſaid to be made with the knowledge of his court. He returned, as wholly inadmiſſible, this offenſive memorial, declaring, that it would be looked upon as an affront to the dignity of his maſter, and incompatible with the ſincerity of the negociation, to make any farther mention of ſuch a circumſtance.

The intentions of the court of Spain being hereby made fully apparent, Mr. Pitt propoſed an immediate declaration of war againſt that kingdom. The ſuperiority of the naval power of England above that of France and Spain, and the aſſurance he had that it would be infinitely better directed, inſpired him with this confidence.

This ſtep of the miniſter was ſtrongly oppoſed at the council-board, not but every member perhaps plainly ſaw that there was no poſſibility of avoiding a freſh war; but equally tired out and diſgraced by the aſcendency Mr. Pitt had gained, they were deſirous of reſtoring a ſpirit of equality in the privy-council. Deſpairing of being able to raiſe themſelves to a level with the man ſo highly eſteemed, or of making him ſtoop to them, they united their forces to effect his ruin. As open attacks would only have turned againſt themſelves, they had recourſe to more artful methods. They attempted to ſour his temper; the natural fire of his character laid him open to ſuch a ſnare, and he fell into it. Finding his ſchemes thus oppoſed, he threw up his employments October 9, 1761. If Mr. Pitt reſigned his poſt through peeviſhneſs, he deſerves to be cenſured for not having ſuppreſſed or maſtered it. If he hoped by this expedient to humble his enemies, he ſhewed that he had greater knowledge of affairs than of men. If, as he aſſerted, he reſigned, "becauſe he would be no longer reſponſible for the meaſures he did not guide;" we may be allowed to think that he was more ſtrongly attached to his own perſonal glory than to the intereſts of his

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country. But whatever may have been the cauſe of his reſignation, nothing but the blindeſt, moſt unjuſt, and moſt violent, partiality can venture to aſſert, that his virtues and abilities were merely accidental. Indeed this miniſter's power as it was not acquired, ſo neither was it exerciſed, in an ordinary manner. With little parliamentary and leſs court influence, he ſwayed both at court and in parliament with an authority unknown before to the beſt ſupported miniſters. He was called to the miniſtry by the voice of the people; and what is more rare, he held it with their approbation; and under him, for the firſt time, adminiſtration and popularity were ſeen united. Under him Great Britain carried on the moſt important war, in which ſhe ever was engaged, alone, and unaſſiſted, with greater ſplendour, and with more ſucceſs, than ſhe had ever enjoyed at the head of the moſt powerful alliances. Alone this iſland ſeemed to balance the reſt of Europe.

The ſovereign, to expreſs the ſentiment he entertained concerning this able ſervant, made him an unlimited offer of any rewards which were in the power of the crown to beſtow. A penſion of 3000l. a year was ſettled on Mr. Pitt, for three lives, and a peerage conferred upon his lady and her male iſſue. Lord Egremont ſucceeded to the ſecretaryſhip, but not to the lead in adminiſtration. The firſt ſtep the new miniſtry took was conformable to the principles of Mr. Pitt; and this was a kind of homage they were compelled to pay him; for war was very ſoon after declared againſt Spain, as he had propoſed.

The new parliament met at Weſtminſter on the 3d ſo November 1761, and as no miniſterial influence had been uſed in electing the members of which it was compoſed, it undoubtedly deſerved the appellation of a *free parliament*, a phenomenon which could ſcarcely be ſaid to have appeared in the meridian of Great Britain ſince the union. On the 6th the king went in ſtate to the houſe of peers, approved the new ſpeaker, and delivered a ſpeech a ſpeech from the throne, wherein he took notice of the domeſtic comfort which he derived from his marriage with a princeſs eminently diſtinguiſhed by every virtue and amiable endowment, expreſſed his wiſhes to have reſtored peace to Europe; but acquainted his parliament that the negociation with France was entirely broken off. He concluded with ſaying, "I am glad to have an opportunity of receiving the trueſt information of the ſenſe of my people by a new choice of their repreſentatives. I am fully perſuaded you will agree with me in opinion, that the ſteady exertion of our moſt vigorous efforts, in every part where the enemy may ſtill be attacked with advantage, is the only means that can be productive of ſuch a peace as may with reaſon be expected from our ſucceſſes. It is therefore my fixed reſolution, with your concurrence and ſupport, to carry on the war, in the moſt effectual manner, for the intereſts and advantage of my kingdoms, and to maintain to the utmoſt of my power, the good faith and honour of my crown, by adhering firmly to the engagements entered into with my allies. In this I will perſevere, until my enemies, moved by their own loſſes and diſtreſſes, and touched with the miſeries of ſo many nations, ſhall yield to the equitable conditions of an honourable peace; in which caſe, as well as in the proſecution of the war, I do aſſure you, no conſideration whatever ſhall make me depart from the true intereſts of theſe my kingdoms, and the honour and dignity of my crown."

Each houſe addreſſed his majeſty in the warmeſt terms of zeal and attachment. The conduct of Mr. Pitt on the opening of the ſeſſion, when he made his own juſtification without impeaching the conduct of any of his colleagues, or taking one meaſure that might ſeem to ariſe from diſguſt or oppoſition, ſet a ſeal upon his character, and, by preſerving that ſpirit of unanimity which had prevailed in parliament, tended ed very eſſentially to ſtrengthen the hands of government.

The buſineſs of the ſupplies ſoon came before the houſe; ſeventy thouſand ſeamen were voted for the year 1762, to provide for which, 4,112,226l. was voted, alſo a million towards diſcharging the debt of the navy. This debt is annually incurred in time of war, as the vote of four pounds per ſeaman per month is found inadequate to every expence attending the ſervice, and it has been thought more adviſable to make good the deficiency by ſtating it as a navy debt, than to advance the rate at which each ſeaman is put down in the eſtimate. For a compenſation to certain provinces in North America, for levy, clothing, and pay, of troops raiſed there, 133,333l. To the Eaſt-India Company, in lieu of a regiment, twenty thouſand pounds. Towards widening London-bridge, fifteen thouſand pounds. Towards building a bridge over the Tweed, four thouſand pounds. For Anamaboo and other forts in Africa, thirteen thouſand pounds. To make good to the ſinking fund, for a malt duty deficiency, 16,540l. Deficiency in grants for the year 1761, 112,613l.— The total amount of grants for the ſervice of the year 1762, was 18,300,145l. This year, according to the uſual method of proceeding, the grants roſe higher than the laſt; if we deduct eight hundred thouſand pounds, which was then granted for the civil liſt, and ſix hundred and ſeventy thouſand pounds then granted to the King of Pruſſia, which two ſums deducted from the laſt year's ſupplies, and neither of them appearing in the grants for the year 1762, it will make the exceſs amount to 153,033l.

Although the rupture with Spain was conſidered as inevitable, yet his majeſty had been quite ſilent on that head in his ſpeech, and the Earl of Briſtol, the Britiſh miniſter at the court of Madrid, had orders to remonſtrate with firmneſs and ſpirit, at the ſame time with great delicacy, to Mr. Wall, the prime miniſter to his moſt catholic majeſty, concerning the nature of the treaty entered into between the two branches of the houſe of Bourbon; and, if he could not obtain a ſatisfactory anſwer on that head, to leave the court. Whilſt the parliament was voting the ſupplies, diſpatches were received from the earl, informing, that Mr. Wall had declared, after much evaſion and circuity, "that the application which the Britiſh court had inſtructed him, its ambaſſador, to make, could only be ſuggeſted by that ſpirit of haughtineſs and diſcord, which, for the misfortune of mankind, ſtill reigned too much in the Britiſh government; that it was in that very moment the war was declared, and the king's dignity violently attacked; and the earl might retire how and when he ſhould think proper."

No meaſures were now to be kept with Spain. The Earl of Briſtol was recalled: the Count de Fuentes, the Spaniſh ambaſſador at the court of London, likewiſe quitted the kingdom. War was declared in form on the 4th of January, 1762; and on the 19th the king communicated it in a ſpeech to both houſes of parliament.

No additional ſupplies were required in conſequence of this new war. The proſpect of ſeizing the treaſures of Spain diffuſed a ſpirit of activity and enterprize through the nation, and rouſed the moſt vigorous exertions of public and private ſtrength. That uniform tenor of ſucceſs which had attended the Britiſh arms, made the nation conſider itſelf as invincible; and the ſuperior courage of our officers and men, both in the army and navy, together with the experience they had derived from a long courſe of ſervice, tended to make our forces ſeem, and almoſt to be, irreſiſtible. So immenſely had the power of Great Britain increaſed during the laſt ſixty years, that an union, the bare ſuſpicion of which had alarmed all Europe in the time of the grand alliance, was now actually formed without exciting any perturbation.

Whilſt Great Britain was no ways depreſſed by this event, the French were elated beyond meaſure by the ratification of the family compact. They hoped that now the ſhattered remains of their navy might, when united with that of Spain, be able to act effectually, and be no longer laid up uſeleſsly and ingloriouſly in their harbours. For this purpoſe great exertions were made. Private merchants ſtrained every nerve in equipping privateers, and ſeveral communities in France undertook to fit out men of war at their own expence.

Although his catholic majeſty cauſed all Britiſh ſhips in the ports of Spain to be detained, and laid reſtraints on the Britiſh ſubjects within his dominions, yet our court diſdained to retaliate the injury. The ſubjects of Spain remained ſecure and unmoleſted in their perſons and effects, and the merchant-ſhips which had arrived in Engliſh harbours, and lay there at the time of the declaration of war, were allowed quietly to depart.

As ſoon as the family compact took place, their moſt chriſtian and catholic majeſties invited the King of Portugal to accede to their confederacy; and in the haughty language of power, menaced him and his kingdom with ſubverſion, if he refuſed to admit their troops into his maritime towns, in order to defend them from the annoyance of a Britiſh fleet. Thus did the deſcendants of Louis XIV. copy the example of their common anceſtor, who made war on the Dutch republic, without having received, or indeed without complaining of, any injury; but merely becauſe he conſidered the ſtrength which he poſſeſſed as ſufficient to ſubdue them.

Joſeph, the reigning king of Portugal, had married the infanta of Spain; but the bands of affinity are too ſlight to confine the ambition of princes. Indeed the ſituation of Portugal was as helpleſs as the views of Spain could wiſh it to be. Its capital, deſtroyed by an earthquake but a few years before, was as yet little better than a heap of ruins; a conſpiracy againſt the life of the king had cauſed the ſcaffolds to flow with the nobleſt blood of the kingdom. Its internal ſtrength had been ſuffered to waſte away; the Portugueſe troops were undiſciplined and unarmed; yet in this defenceleſs ſtate, the abhorrence which every part of the nation bore to a Spaniſh yoke determined his moſt faithful majeſty to reſt his ſecurity on the aſſiſtance which he ſhould receive from Great Britain on his being attacked, and the difficulties which the face of the country lay in the way of an enemy's advances.

It was to no purpoſe for the King of Portugal to promiſe a ſtrict neutrality, and urge the obligations he was under to the King of Britain; this moderate and reaſonable reply only drew on more haughty and inſulting anſwers. His Portugueſe majeſty, however, continued reſolute, and concluded his laſt declaration with theſe words: that "it would affect him leſs, though reduced to the laſt extremity, of which the great Judge is the ſole arbiter, to let the laſt tile of his palace fall, and to ſee his faithful ſubjects ſpill the laſt drop of their blood, than to ſacrifice, together with the honour of his crown, all that Portugal holds moſt dear; and to ſubmit, by ſuch extraordinary means, to become an unheard-of example to all pacific powers, who will no longer be able to enjoy the benefit of neutrality, whenever a war ſhall be kindled between other powers with which the former are connected by defenſive treaties." This declaration was made on the 27th of April 1762; and ſoon after, France and Spain jointly declared war againſt Portugal.

As the deſign of the courts of France and Spain in making war with Portugal, was profeſſedly to prevent Great Britain from the military and commercial uſe of the ports of that kingdom, their principal endeavours were aimed at the two great ports where the

Britiſh uſed to reſide, viz. Oporto and Liſbon. With this view, three inroads were to be made; one to the north; another more to the ſouth; while the third was made in the middle provinces, in order to ſuſtain theſe two bodies, and preſerve a communication between them. The firſt body of troops was commanded by the Marquis of Savria; and entered the north-eaſt angle of Portugal, marching towards Miranda. This town might poſſibly have retarded their progreſs, had not a powder-magazine been blown up by accident; and the Spaniards entered on the 9th of May by the breaches made by this exploſion. From thence they marched to Braganza, which ſurrendered ſix days after Miranda. Moncorvo was taken in like manner; every thing was clear before them to the banks of the Douro; and they became maſters of almoſt the whole extenſive province of Tra los Montes. Oporto was given up for loſt, and the admiralty prepared tranſports to carry off the effects of the Britiſh merchants. On the banks of the Douro, however, the career of this body was ſtopped. The peaſants, animated and guided by ſome Britiſh officers, ſeized a difficult paſs, and drove the enemy back to Moncorvo.

The ſecond body of Spaniards entered the province of Beira, at the villages called Val de Mula and Val de Coelha. They were joined by ſtrong detachments amounting to almoſt the whole army in Tra los Montes; and immediately laid ſiege to Almeida, the ſtrongeſt and beſt-provided place on the frontiers of Portugal. This place was defended with ſufficient reſolution; but, like the reſt, was obliged to ſurrender on the 25th of Auguſt. The Spaniards then overran the whole territory of Caſtle Branco, a principal diſtrict of the province of Beira, making their way ſouthward until they approached the banks of the Tagus. During the whole of their progreſs, and indeed during the whole of the campaign, the allied troops of Great

Britain and Portugal had nothing that could be called an army in the field, and they could not think of oppoſing the enemy in a pitched battle. All that could be done was by the defence of paſſes, ſkirmiſh, and ſurpriſe.

By this time the Count of La Lippe Buckeburg had arrived in Portugal, to the inexpreſſible joy of the whole nation. The third Spaniſh army had aſſembled on the frontiers of Eſtramadura, with a deſign to invade the province of Alentejo; and had his body of troops been joined to the others, they would probably, in ſpite of all oppoſition, have forced their way to Liſbon itſelf; had it acted ſeparately, it might have greatly diſtracted the defendants, ſo as to enable ſome other body of forces to penetrate to that city. The count, therefore, reſolved to prevent their entrance into the kingdom; and with this view diſpatched Brigadier-general Burgoyne to attack an advanced body of Spaniards which lay on their frontiers, in a town called Valentia de Alcantara. On the 27th of Auguſt the town was ſurpriſed; the general was taken who intended to have commanded in the invaſion, together with one colonel, two captains, and ſeventeen ſubaltern officers. One of the beſt regiments in the Spaniſh ſervice was alſo entirely deſtroyed; and thus the enemy were in all probability prevented from entering Alentejo.

That part of the Spaniſh army which acted in the territory of Caſtel Branco had made themſelves maſters of ſeveral important paſſes, which they obliged ſome bodies of Portugueſe to abandon. The combined army of Britiſh and Portugueſe pretended to retire before them, in order to draw them into the mountainous tracts. They attacked the rear of the allies, but were repulſed with loſs. Still, however, they continued maſters of the country, and nothing remained but the paſſage of the Tagus to enable them to take up their quarters in the province of Alentejo. This the count deſigned to prevent; and in this ſervice General Burgoyne was employed, who formed a deſign of ſurpriſing them. The execution was committed to Colonel Lee, who, in the night of October 6th, fell upon their rear, diſperſed the whole body with conſiderable ſlaughter, deſtroyed their magazines, and returned with ſcarce any loſs. The ſeaſon was now far advanced; immenſe quantities of rain fell; the roads were deſtroyed; and the Spaniards, having ſeized no advanced poſts where they could maintain themſelves, and being unprovided with magazines for the ſupport of their horſe, every where fell back to the frontiers of Spain.

" Probably," ſays a very able writer, " there never was ſo heavy a ſtorm of national calamity ready to fall upon an unprovided people, ſo happily averted, or ſo ſpeedily blown over. Every thing at the beginning of the campaign, bore the moſt lowering and ominous aſpect to the affairs of Great Britain. As it advanced, the ſky continually cleared up, and the fortune of no nation, towards the cloſe of it, was enlivened with a more brilliant and more unclouded proſperity."

The army in Weſtphalia was ſtill commanded by the Prince of Brunſwick; but the Britiſh miniſtry began to appear cool to that general; they charged him with ſupineneſs in his operations, and a determined purpoſe of protracting the war, in order ſtill to retain the vaſt emoluments he derived from it. Indeed every principle of ſound policy, inclined Great Britain to cloſe her German connections as ſoon as ſhe could do it conſiſtently with good faith.

Prince Ferdinand, who ſaw the court of London determined on concluding a peace, ſeemed thereby rouſed to make redoubled efforts, and to confirm the character he had acquired, of being one of the greateſt generals of the age, by diſplaying his military talents in their full luſtre.

At the opening of the campaign of 1762 in Weſtphalia, the Prince de Soubiſe was appointed to the command in chief of the French forces, in the room of his rival the Marſhal Broglio; and Marſhal d'Eſtrees was joined with him as ſecond in command. The grand army of France lay encamped near the Weſer, whilſt another under the Prince de Condé was deſtined to act on the Lower Rhine. Prince Ferdinand, with the allied army, was poſted behind the Dymel, to make head againſt Soubiſe, whilſt a large detachment, under his nephew the hereditary prince, was ſtationed in the biſhoprick of Munſter to oppoſe the Prince of Condé.

Prince Ferdinand began the campaign by attacking the French camp near the village of Graevenſteen, on the 24th of June. He led on the troops in perſon againſt the centre, whilſt Lord Granby attacked the enemy's left wing, and General Sporken took their right wing in flank. The French fled precipitately at the firſt onſet, and their whole army would have been entirely routed, but for the uncommon reſolution of M. Stainville, who at the head of a choſen body of troops, threw himſelf into a wood, and by making a reſolute ſtand, in which, however, almoſt the whole of his brave ſoldiery were ſlain, ſo effectually checked the progreſs of the right wing of the allies, by keeping the Britiſh troops employed in driving them from their lodgement, that the reſt of the French army had time to recover from their panic, and make an orderly retreat towards Caſſel. The French had one hundred battalions of infantry, whilſt their aſſailants had only ſixty. They had about three thouſand men made priſoners, among whom were one hundred and ſixty-two officers. The loſs of the allies was inconſiderable, except in the death of Lieutenant-colonel Townſhend, ſecond ſon to the Honourable Thomas Townſhend, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf on many former occaſions: at Guadaloupe he fell overboard whilſt the troops were landing, and was ſaved by his black ſervant; from that ſervice he was ordered to Germany, and in the campaign of 1761, was ſhot through the arm; his military ardour hurried him on to brave every danger, and in one of theſe gallant undertakings he unfortunately fell.

This ſucceſs of the allies was improved with equal ſpirit with which it was obtained. A body of Engliſh under the command of Lord Granby and Lord Frederic Cavendiſh, wheeling round a large extent of country, attacked the French in flank at Hombourgh, and drove them from their poſts, on the 6th of July, which obliged the Prince de Soubiſe, to evacuate almoſt entirely the ſouthern parts of Heſſe, which were immediately occupied by the allies.

More northward, affairs went on in the ſame train. Gottingen was evacuated on the 16th of Auguſt. An army under Prince Xavier of Saxony was defeated, and a conſiderable advantage gained over General Stainville, who commanded a body of ten thouſand French troops.

Meanwhile Soubiſe found himſelf ſo hard preſſed, that he was obliged to ſtrengthen himſelf by calling in the army on the Lower Rhine. The hereditary prince, who kept cloſe on this body of troops during their advances, at length, Auguſt 30, attacked a part of the French army, which was poſted near the river Watter, at a place called the heights of Iſhaniſburg, ſix leagues to the north of Frankfort. His ſucceſs at firſt was extremely flattering, but the main body of the French army, coming to the aſſiſtance of theſe diſcomfited bands, the fortune of the day was reverſed, and three thouſand allies were either killed, wounded, or made priſoners. The hereditary prince, who throughout the action was prodigal of life, received a wound on his left hip, from a muſket-ball, which for a conſiderable time endangered his life. No material advantages were however derived to the French from this ſucceſs: on the contrary, they were attacked by Prince Ferdinand, on the 26th of September, and again obliged to make a haſty retreat. The allied army thereupon laid ſiege to Caſſel, the capital of the principality of Heſſe, which ſurrendered on the 1ſt of November, after a ſiege of fifteen days open trenches. The garriſon, amounting to 20,000 men, became priſoners of war. The only place that then remained in the hands of the French in that territory, was Ziegenhayn; which Prince Ferdinand, notwithſtanding the advanced ſeaſon of the year, was beginning to attack, when the ſigning of the preliminary articles of peace put an end to hoſtilities on both ſides.

We left the King of Pruſſia, at the cloſe of the laſt year, in a manner cut off from hope of eſcaping that ruin which the inveteracy and power of his numerous enemies had almoſt completed. From this he was indeed reſcued by a means almoſt miraculous, as it can be looked upon to be nothing leſs, for a crowned head to ſacrifice his moſt valuable intereſts to private friendſhip.

On the 2d of January, 1762, Elizabeth, empreſs of all the Ruſſias, ſecond daughter to Peter the Great, died, in the fifty-ſecond year of her age, and twenty-ſecond of her reign. She had ever been the inveterate and inflexible enemy of the King of Pruſſia, and was then on the point of wreſting from him thoſe territories which would have extended the influence of her empire over the kingdom of Poland and the Germanic body; at the ſame time, that by putting her in poſſeſſion of ſome valuable ports on the Baltic, her ſubjects would have been enabled to increaſe their commercial advantages, whilſt the ſtate would gradually have advanced in naval ſtrength. She died juſt at the time when theſe national benefits began to be realized. She appointed for her ſucceſſor Charles Peter Ulric of the houſe of Holſtein, who had been created grand duke of Ruſſia, and hereupon became emperor by the name of Peter the third. The czar, though a man of no talents himſelf, was capable of admiring them in another. Before he arrived at this exaltation, his veneration for the heroic exploits of Frederic of Pruſſia had ſtrongly attached him to the intereſts of that monarch, and ſoon after his elevation he reſolved to change the ſyſtem of politics which bore ſo hard on one he eſteemed ſo highly.

The new emperor was not of a diſpoſition to ſuppreſs or poſtpone his reſolves. On the 23d of February, 1762, he cauſed a memorial to be delivered to the miniſters of his allies at his court, declaring, "That in order to the eſtabliſhment of peace, he was ready to ſacrifice all the conqueſts made by the arms of Ruſſia in the war, in hopes that the allied courts would, on their parts, equally prefer the reſtoration of peace and tranquillity, to the advantages which they might expect from the continuance of the war, but which they could not obtain but by a continuance of the effuſion of human blood."

This moſt ſingular memorial was ſucceeded by a ceſſation of hoſtilities between the two monarchs on the 16th of March; this was as quickly followed by a treaty of peace and alliance, which was ratified within two months after. By it the czar engaged to deliver up to his new ally all the places which had been wreſted from him by the Ruſſian arms, and to aſſiſt him againſt thoſe powers with whom his predeceſſor had leagued. Hereupon the Ruſſians joined the Pruſſians to drive away thoſe Auſtrians whom the former had, till now, ſo eſſentially ſeconded.

This wonderful revolution, though the greateſt, was not the only favourable incident to the intereſts of Pruſſia. The Swedes alſo ſigned a treaty of peace in the ſame month. During the war, the operations of their army had been languid and ineffectual. The court of Stockholm had no concern in the war, the ſenate entered into it, allured thereto by a ſmall ſubſidy paid by France, and they only pretended to make war for the ſake of the little money that was given them.

It is not to be ſuppoſed that the King of Pruſſia would remain long inactive after ſuch an unexpected turn in his favour. His arms were now every where attended with ſucceſs. Prince Henry drove the Imperialiſts from ſome important poſts in Saxony, by which he ſecured all that part which the Pruſſians poſſeſſed; and, though the Auſtrians frequently attempted to recover theſe poſts, they were conſtantly repulſed with great ſlaughter. The king was not joined by his new allies till the latter end of June; after which he drove M. Daun before him to the extremity of Sileſia, leaving the town of Schweidnitz entirely uncovered, and which the king immediately prepared to inveſt. In the mean time different detachments of Pruſſians, ſome on the ſide of Saxony, and others on that of Sileſia, penetrated deep into Bohemia, laid many parts of the country under contribution, and ſpread an univerſal alarm. A conſiderable body of Ruſſian irregulars alſo made an irruption into Bohemia, where they practiſed on the Auſtrians the ſame cruelties which they had long been accuſtomed to practiſe on the Pruſſians.

But while the king was thus making the beſt uſe of his time, he was all at once threatened with a fatal reverſe of fortune by a new revolution in Ruſſia. Peter III. had been ſome time married to Catharine Anhalt, a woman of maſculine ſenſe and extraordinary endowments. The affections of her huſband were, however, utterly eſtranged from her, and became fixed on the Counteſs of Woronzoff: this conjugal infidelity would have had no influence on his reign, if a degree of folly, bordering on inſanity, had not appeared in the firſt meaſures which the emperor adopted. By the regulations which he arbitrarily introduced, both into the eccleſiaſtical and military eſtabliſhments of Ruſſia, he rendered himſelf deteſted by the clergy and the officers of his army, ere their profeſſions of allegiance were well uttered. A conſpracy of all the leading men in every department of the ſtate, was formed to dethrone him. The empreſs became a party in the undertaking; he was ſeized and conveyed to priſon, where, according to the general expectation, he ſoon after died, having held the reins of government only ſix months. The army and citizens, with one voice, proclaimed his wife empreſs, although a foreigner, and this wonderful woman became the lawgiver of that vaſt empire.

It was univerſally ſuppoſed that this revolution in the government of Ruſſia, would reſtore the former ſyſtem of politics with reſpect to the war in Germany, and that the King of Pruſſia, after having been enlivened with a momentary gleam of hope, would be again devoted to deſtruction. Indeed the ſentiments of the new empreſs were by no means favourable to this prince, the ſtrongeſt ſuſpicions being entertained, that he had made uſe of the aſcendency which he held over the will of the late emperor, to incite him to the haſty and violent ſteps which he had taken. As ſoon, therefore, as Peter III. was depoſed, his cabinet was ranſacked for proofs againſt the King of Pruſſia; but by the letters which were there found, it appeared that prince had made uſe of every argument to perſuade the head-ſtrong emperor to renounce his chimerical projects of innovations in the eſtabliſhed religion, cuſtoms, and laws, of his country: he particularly preſſed him to treat the empreſs his wife with kindneſs and reſpect. This laſt teſtimony of the King of Pruſſia's conduct, made a very ſtrong impreſſion on the mind of Catharine; and ſhe immediately determined, at leaſt, not to be his enemy. The ſtate of the empire, thrown into a ferment by the late meaſures, and the ſudden revolution they had brought about, made it prudent to drop all thoughts of foreign wars; therefore the towns which had been taken during the war, were now delivered up to the Pruſſians, agreeable to the agreement entered into in the late reign; but the Ruſſian army in Germany was recalled, and the obſervance of a ſtrict neutrality was reſolved on.

The King of Pruſſia, finding that the Ruſſians were no more to take an active part in his favour, reſolved to profit by their appearance in his camp; and therefore, the very day after the order for their return had arrived, he attacked the Auſtrian army, and drove their right wing from ſome eminences and villages where they were advantageouſly poſted; by which means he entirely cut off their communication with Schweidnitz, ſo that nothing could be attempted for its relief. Prince Henry kept them in continual alarms for Bohemia; and a great part of their attention, and no ſmall part of their forces, were engaged on that ſide. Marſhal Daun, now finding himſelf rendered almoſt incapable of undertaking any thing, detached General Laudohn, with a force very much ſuperior, to attack the Prince of Bevern, and drive him from the advantageous poſt he occupied. But the prince defended himſelf with ſuch reſolution, that all the efforts of Laudohn could not ſucceed before the king had time to come to his aſſiſtance. The Auſtrians, being then put between two fires, were routed and purſued with terrible ſlaughter; after which, the king met with no more diſturbance in his preparations for the ſiege, and the trenches were opened on the 18th of July. Marſhal Daun made no attempts to relieve the place; but the garriſon being very ſtrong, it held out for near two months from the opening of the trenches. It is ſaid that the attack was conducted, and the defence made, by two engineers who had written on the ſubject of the attack and defence of fortified places; and they were now practically engaged to prove the ſuperiority of their ſyſtems. At laſt, however, the garriſon, to the number of 8000 men, ſurrendered priſoners of war; and the whole body, except nine, were ſoon after drowned at the mouth of the Oder, on their paſſage to their intended confinement at Konigſberg.

The King of Pruſſia, now become maſter of Schweidnitz, turned his attention towards Saxony, where he conſiderably reinforced his brother's army, and made preparations for laying ſiege to Dreſden. In this country the Auſtrians had lately met with ſome ſucceſs, and driven Prince Henry back as far as Freyberg; but on the 29th of October, they were attacked by the Pruſſian army thus reinforced, and totally routed. Great numbers were ſlain, and near 6000 taken priſoners. This victory proved deciſive: and the empreſs-queen, finding herſelf deſerted by all her allies, was glad to conclude a treaty; the ſubſtance of which was, that a mutual reſtitution and oblivion ſhould take place, and both parties ſit down at the end of the war in the ſame ſituation in which they began it. This treaty is called the peace of Hubertſburg.

We have now to relate the brilliant ſucceſſes of the Britiſh arms in America, India, &c. during the year 1762.

About the time that the court of Spain began to throw off the maſk, and openly avow its intentions, the French had concerted a plan for deſtroying the Britiſh fleet, which lay in Baſque-road, oppoſite to Rochfort. For this purpoſe they prepared three fire-boats of fifty tons each; theſe were ſet afloat in the dead of night, and navigated towards the Engliſh ſhips; four French men-of-war's boats aſſiſted in the enterprize. But, through precipitation, miſtake, or accident, two of theſe fire-veſſels blew up, whilſt they were two miles diſtant from their object, and every ſoul on-board periſhed. Theſe veſſels were chained head and ſtern to each other, at the diſtance of one third of a cable. They continued burning with great fury from one o'clock in the morning until day-light. From the point the wind blew when they took fire, they were in the ſtream of the Princeſs Amelia, Captain Montague, an eighty-gun ſhip; but moſt fortunately the wind ſuddenly ſhifted from weſt to north-weſt, and drove them clear of the whole ſquadron. Had the deſign been as well executed as it was planned, it might have done fatal execution.

As the Weſt-India iſlands were the only commercial reſources remaining to France, it had been determined by adminiſtration, whilſt Mr. Pitt continued to take the lead, if the negociation for peace ſhould prove abortive, to direct the force of Great Britain againſt thoſe ſettlements in the early part of the next year. The failure of the attempt upon Martinico in the year 1759, had not proved the impracticability of reducing that iſland. The changes which took place in the miniſtry, threw no impediment in the way of the enterprize. Rear admiral Rodney ſailed from Spithead on the 18th of October, 1761. He took onboard his tranſports, four battalions at Belleiſle, and proceeded to Barbadoes, where the whole force was to be collected. It conſiſted of eleven battalions drawn from New York, which with the forces from Europe, and what were collected from the iſlands, amounted to near twelve thouſand men. The fleet was compoſed of eighteen ſhips of the line, beſides frigates, bombs, and fire-ſhips. The command of the land-forces was given to Major-general Monckton, who had acquired a great reputation by his conduct in Canada. So large a navy and army had never been before aſſembled in that part of the world.

This formidable armament appeared before Martinico on the 7th of January 1762. A landing was effected at a creek called Cas Navira, without the loſs of a man, the fleet having been diſpoſed ſo properly, and the fire from the ſhips, under the command of Sir James Douglas, being directed with ſuch effect, that the enemy was obliged in a ſhort time to abandon the batteries they had erected to defend this inlet. In performing this ſervice, the Raiſonable of ſixty-four guns ran on a reef of rocks, and was irrecoverably loſt. All her officers and crew were ſaved, together with her ſtores and guns. Having thus taken poſſeſſion of an excellent harbour, and ſecured a landing on the weather-moſt ſide of that iſland, Commodore Swanton was then diſpatched with a ſquadron of ſhips and two brigades to the bay of Petit Ance, in order to take poſt there. The Hon. Captain Hervey, of the Dragon, having ſilenced the battery of the Grand Ance, landed his marines and ſeamen, who attacked it alſo from the ſhore, and took poſſeſſion of the fort. On the 14th, Admiral Rodney followed with the whole fleet, and on the 16th the whole army landed in the neighbourhood of the Cas Navires. The general now reſolved to lay ſiege to the town of Fort Royal; for which purpoſe the heavy artillery was landed, and a large body of ſailors drew it three miles with incredible fortitude and perſeverance over ſteep eminences, and ſunken ravines, all the time expoſed to the enemy's fire from their batteries. The face of the country in that part of the iſland where the operations were carried on, preſented a natural fortification, abounding with deep gullies of very difficult acceſs, and theſe frequently defended by troops and cannon. M. la Touche, the governor-general, commanded at St. Pierre, the capital; the regular troops on the iſland were not numerous; the chief ſtrength of the French conſiſted in militia, marines, and freebooters. The town and citadel is overlooked by two very conſiderable eminences called Garnier and Tortueſon; theſe the enemy had fortified, and ſeemed determined to defend to the laſt extremity. Early on the 24th of January, Brigadier Grant at the head of the grenadiers, ſupported by Lord Rollo's brigade, attacked the advanced poſts of the enemy, under a briſk fire of the batteries, while Brigadier Rufane with his brigade, reinforced by the marines, marched up on the right to attack the redoubts that were raiſed along the ſhore; and the light infantry under Colonel Scot, ſupported by the brigade of Walſh, advanced to turn the enemy. The attack ſucceeded in every quarter. The irreſiſtible impetuoſity of the troops bore down all before them, the French were driven from poſt to poſt, and by nine o'clock in the morning, the Engliſh were in poſſeſſion of the Morne Tortueſon, and all the redoubts and batteries with which it was fortified. Some of the enemy fled precipitately into the town, to the very entrance of which they were purſued. Others ſaved themſelves on the Morne Garnier, which was as ſtrong and much higher than the other, and overlooked and commanded it. Thus far they proceeded with ſucceſs, but nothing deciſive could be done, without the poſſeſſion of the other eminence, our troops being much moleſted by the enemy from that ſuperior ſituation.

On the 27th, about four in the evening, the enemy's whole force deſcended from the hill, ſallied out of the town at the ſame time, and attacked the Engliſh in their advanced poſts. They were received with the moſt ſteady bravery, and immediately repulſed. The ardour of the Britiſh troops hurrying them forward, they improved a defenſive advantage into an attack, paſſed the ravines, mingled with the enemy, aſcended the hill, ſeized the batteries, and poſted themſelves on the ſummit of Morne Garnier, againſt which their own artillery had been turned in the morning. The French regular troops fled into the town, and the militia diſperſed in the country.

The governor of the citadel, perceiving the Engliſh employed in erecting batteries on the different heights by which he was commanded, propoſed terms of capitulation. On the 4th of February the gate of the citadel was delivered up to the Engliſh, and next morning, the garriſon, to the number of eight hundred, marched out with the honours of war. In the ſeveral attacks which preceded the ſurrender of the place, the French were ſuppoſed to have had one thouſand men either killed, wounded, or taken priſoners. Fourteen French privateers were found in the harbour, and many more which were in the other ports of the iſland, were delivered up to Admiral Rodney, in conſequence of the capitulation with the inhabitants.

On the 7th, Pigeon's Iſland, which was ſtrongly fortified, and thereby rendered one of the beſt defences of the harbour, ſurrendered at the firſt ſummons, and obtained a capitulation ſimilar to that of the citadel, whereby the nobleſt and beſt harbour belonging to the windward iſlands came into poſſeſſion of Great Britain. The terms granted to the beſieged were, That the French regulars ſhould be tranſported to Rochfort in France; and, that the militia ſhould lay down their arms, and remain priſoners of war, until the fate of the iſland ſhould be determined. This acquiſition was made with the loſs of ninety-ſix killed, and four hundred wounded, on the ſide of the Engliſh.

St. Pierre, the capital of the iſland, ſtill held out; this town is ſituated to leeward of Fort Royal, and is a place of ſtrength, ſo that the reduction of the iſland was not yet completed. However, on the 12th of February, deputies arrived, who were empowered to treat for the ſurrender of that place and the whole iſland. By this time a ſpirit of deſpondency had ſeized the French; their militia deſpaired of making any effectual defence. The planters alſo, ſolicitous for their fortunes, were apprehenſive of having their eſtates ruined by protracting the conteſt. Beſides, the proſperous condition of Guadaloupe, ſince it had become ſubject to Great Britain, made the change of maſters rather a matter to be deſired than dreaded by the wealthy and induſtrious inhabitants of Martinico. If wars between European powers have not become leſs frequent of late years than formerly, the wide deſolation which they are calculated to ſpread, has been, however, laid under conſiderable reſtraints. So that a conquered country only changes its maſter, and frequently undergoes no material alteration in the rights and immunities of its inhabitants. Thoſe of Martinico were great gainers by being ſubdued. The free exerciſe of their religion, their laws, and property, were ſecured to them. They had thereby an opportunity of exporting their produce to advantage, and of being ſupplied with all neceſſaries from the dominions of Great Britain; whereas before this event took place, their commerce was interrupted, and they depended on very precarious methods of ſupply, even for their ſubſiſtence.

While Monckton was employed in regulating the capitulation of this iſland, Swanton ſailed with a ſmall ſquadron to the iſland of Grenada, the moſt ſouthern of the range of iſlands lying to the windward, as Martinico was the moſt northern, which ſurrendered without oppoſition. St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the right to which had ſo long been an object of contention between the two nations, followed its example. The Engliſh were now in poſſeſſion of all the Caribbees, conſiſting of a chain of iſlands extending ſeven degrees of latitude, which forms a bow, reaching to the eaſtern point of Porto Rico, or Juan de Puerto Ricca, northward, and almoſt to the continent of South America ſouthward.

Great as this acquiſition was, it was only a prelude to a ſtill greater. The war on the American continent being terminated by the entire reduction of the French ſettlements to the weſtward and northward of our own, a large body of troops were ſtationed in the colonies, ready to embark on any enterprize that ſhould be undertaken. We have already ſeen that a detachment of theſe troops was employed in the reduction of Martinico. The rapid conqueſt of that iſland, whilſt the ſeaſon for action in thoſe parts remained unwaſted, was extremely favourable for undertaking ſome capital enterprize. The moſt fortunate concurrence of circumſtances that could be wiſhed, pointed out an attack upon the Spaniards in their moſt vulnerable part. Experience had ſhewn that it was not on the continent of South America that war ſhould be waged, but that Cuba, as being the key to the new world, was the moſt important object. This ſcheme had been propoſed by ſome of the ableſt politicians in the preceding war; when Admiral Vernon commanded in the Weſt-Indies, the town of St. Jago was then attempted; but now, nothing ſhort of the reduction of the Havannah was aimed at.

The force already in the Weſt-Indies was certainly equal to the attempt; but as immenſe wealth was expected to be derived ſhould the enterprize prove ſucceſsful, a freſh armament was ſent out from England, under the command of men particularly favoured by government. The Earl of Albemarle, by the recommendation of the Duke of Cumberland, received the command of the land-forces; and his two brothers, Major-general Keppel and the commodore, had each appointments. Admiral Pocock, whoſe ſignal ſervices in the Eaſt-Indies merited an ample recompence, had the command of the fleet.

They ſailed from Portſmouth on the 4th of March 1762. On the 27th of May they were joined off Cape Nichola, on the north-weſt point of Hiſpaniola, by a detachment of the fleet from Martinico, under Sir James Douglas, which made the whole force to conſiſt of nineteen ſail of the line, eighteen ſmaller ſhips of war, and about a hundred and fifty tranſports, having on-board about ten thouſand land-forces and marines. Orders had been ſent to New York, to detach another reinforcement, amounting to four thouſand men, from thence; but theſe did not arrive until a conſiderable progreſs had been made in the ſiege.

There were two choices before the admiral for his courſe to the Havannah. The firſt and moſt obvious was the common way, to keep to the ſouth of Cuba, and fall into the track of the galleons. But this, though by much the ſafeſt, would prove by far the moſt tedious paſſage; and delays, above all things, were to be avoided, as the ſucceſs of the whole enterprize would probably depend upon its being in forwardneſs before the hurricane ſeaſon came on. He therefore reſolved to run along the northern ſhore of that iſland, purſuing his career from eaſt to weſt through a narrow paſſage, not leſs than ſeven hundred miles in length, called the Old Straits of Bahama.

This paſſage, through almoſt the whole of its extent, is bounded on each ſide by the moſt dangerous ſands and ſhoals, which render the navigation ſo hazardous, that it has uſually been avoided by ſingle and ſmall veſſels. There was no pilot in the fleet whoſe experience could be depended on to conduct them ſafely through it. The admiral, however, determined on this paſſage; and being provided with a good chart of Lord Anſon's, he reſolved to truſt to his own ſagacity, conduct, and vigilance, to carry ſafely through theſe ſtraits a fleet of near two hundred ſail. So bold an attempt had never been made; but every precaution was taken to guard this boldneſs from the imputation of temerity. Captain Elphinſton, in the Richmond, was ſent to reconnoitre the paſſage, and, when returned, was ordered to take the lead; ſome frigates followed; ſloops and boats were ſtationed on the right and left on the ſhallows, with well-adapted ſignals both for the day and the night. The fleet moved in ſeven diviſions; and, being favoured with pleaſant weather, and ſecured by the admirable diſpoſitions which were made, they, without the ſmalleſt loſs or interruption, got clear through this perilous paſſage on the 5th of June.

The iſland of Cuba, which is ſeparated from St. Domingo by a narrow channel, is of itſelf equal in value to a kingdom; it is two hundred and fifty leagues in length, and in breadth from fifteen to twenty and thirty. Although St. Jago is ſtyled the capital of the iſland, yet the town of the Havannah is firſt in wealth, magnitude, and importance, it being the general rendezvous for all the Spaniſh ſhips that either ſail to or return from the continent of South America. The harbour on which the town is built, is, in every reſpect, one of the beſt in the Weſt-Indies, and perhaps in the world. It is entered by a narrow paſſage, upwards of half a mile in length, which afterwards expands into a large baſon, with three ſmall bays; and is ſufficient, in extent and depth, to contain a thouſand ſail of the largeſt ſhips, having almoſt throughout ſix fathom water, being perfectly covered from every wind. In this ſpacious harbour the rich fleets from the ſeveral parts of the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, called the galleons, and the flota, aſſemble, before they finally ſet out on their voyage for Europe.

This circumſtance has rendered the Havannah one of the moſt opulent, flouriſhing, and populous, cities in this part of the world. Great care was taken to fortify and ſecure a place, which, by being the centre of ſo rich a commerce, would naturally become the faireſt mark for the attempts of an enemy. The narrow entrance into this harbour is ſecured on one ſide by a very ſtrong fort, called the Moro, built upon a projecting point of land: on the other, it is defended by a fort called the Puntal, which joins the town. The town itſelf, which is ſituated to the weſtward of the entrance of the harbour, and oppoſite to the Moro fort, is ſurrounded by a good rampart, flanked with baſtions, and covered with a ditch.

The Spaniards, who had been for ſome time preparing for war, had formed a conſiderable navy in the Weſt-Indies: this fleet, which was near twenty ſail, moſtly of the line, lay at this time in the baſon of the Havannah; but they had not, when our armament appeared before the port, received, it ſeems, any authentic account from their court concerning the commencement of hoſtilities between the two nations. Don Juan de Prado, who was governor of the city, commanded in chief; the Marquis del Real, who had the command of the fleet, was the ſecond in power; there were likewiſe the viceroy of Peru and the governor of Carthagena, who happened at that time to have touched there on their reſpective voyages.

The admiral lay to with his fleet about five leagues to the eaſtward of the Havannah, after having taken a Spaniſh frigate and a ſtoreſhip. In this poſition he iſſued out his orders to the captains of the fleet and maſters of the tranſports relative to the landing the troops on the eaſtward of the harbour's mouth. Commodore Keppel, with ſix ſhips of the line and ſome frigates, was appointed to ſuperintend this important ſervice; whilſt Admiral Pocock, with thirteen ſhips of the line, two frigates, the bomb-veſſels, and thirty-ſix victuallers and ſtore-ſhips, ran down off the harbour to the weſtward, and the next morning made a feint to land about four miles from the Puntal fort, in order to divide the attention of the enemy, and facilitate the operations to the eaſtward. The event juſtified the meaſure; the Earl of Albemarle landed with his whole army without oppoſition, between the rivers Boca-Nao and Coximar, about ſix miles to the eaſtward of the Moro. A body of Spaniards appearing near the ſhore, the commodore ordered the Mercury and Bonetta ſloops to warp in cloſe to ſcower the beach and woods; and upon a larger body of the enemy appearing ſoon after, who ſeemed diſpoſed to diſpute the paſſage of Coximar river with the Britiſh army, Captain Hervey in the Dragon was ordered to run in and batter a caſtle which ſtood on the mouth of that river, which in a ſhort time he ſilenced, and the whole army croſſed the river and encamped.

The principal body of the army was deſtined to act upon this ſide. It was divided into two corps; one of which was advanced a conſiderable way in the country, towards the ſouth-eaſt of the harbour, in order to cover the ſiege, and to ſecure our parties employed in watering and procuring proviſions. This corps was commanded by General Elliot. The other was immediately occupied in the attack on Fort Moro, to the reduction of which the efforts of the Engliſh were principally directed, as the Moro commanded the town, and the entrance of the harbour. This attack was conducted by General Keppel. To make a diverſion in favour of this grand operation, a detachment, under Colonel Howe, was encamped to the weſtward of the town. This body cut off the communication between the town and the country, and kept the enemy's attention divided. Such was the admirable diſpoſition of the land-forces during the whole ſiege.

On the 8th of June the enemy ſunk one of their large ſhips of war in the entrance of the harbour, and another early the next morning, and ſome time after a third. This precaution, was unneceſſary, as it would have been the height of raſhneſs for the Britiſh fleet to have attempted forcing the entrance, and has proved extremely detrimental to the navigation of the harbour, as the Spaniards have not been able to weigh theſe ſhips up, and now moſt certainly never will. On the 10th, Colonel Carleton drove the enemy from a ſmall redoubt on the top of the hill Cavannos, which overlooked the Moro; and there a poſt was eſtabliſhed; at the ſame time, three bomb-veſſels, being anchored in ſhore, began to throw ſhells into the town, under cover of the ſhips, Edgar, Stirling-Caſtle, and Echo.

The hardſhips which the Engliſh army ſuſtained, in carrying on the ſiege of the Moro, are almoſt inexpreſſible: the earth was every where ſo thin, that it was with great difficulty they could cover themſelves in their approaches. There was no ſpring or river near them; it was neceſſary to bring water from a great diſtance; and ſo precarious and ſcanty was this ſupply, that they were obliged to have recourſe to water from the ſhips. Roads for communication were to be cut through thick woods; the artillery was to be dragged for a vaſt way over a rough rocky ſhore. Several dropped down dead with heat, thirſt, and fatigue. But ſuch was the reſolution of our people, ſuch the happy and perfect unanimity which ſubſiſted between the land and the ſea-ſervices, that no difficulties, no hardſhips, ſlackened for a moment the operations againſt this important, ſtrong, and well-defended, place. Batteries were, in ſpite of all difficulties, raiſed againſt the Moro, and along the hill upon which this fort ſtands, in order to drive the enemy's ſhips deeper into the harbour, and thus to prevent them from moleſting our approaches.

The enemy's fire, and that of the beſiegers, was for a long time pretty near on an equality, and it was kept up with great vivacity on both ſides. The Spaniards in the fort communicated with the town, from which they were recruited and ſupplied; they did not rely ſolely on their works; they made a ſally with ſufficient reſolution and conſiderable force, but with little ſucceſs. They were obliged to retire, with a loſs of two or three hundred men.

At the very time that the batteries were firſt opened on ſhore, the admiral ordered three large ſhips of the line, the Dragon, Marlborough, and Cambridge, commanded by the Captains Hervey, Burnet, and Gooſtrey, to lay their broadſides againſt the north-eaſt ſide of the fort. Captain Hervey directed this attack, and made very judicious diſpoſitions in placing the three ſhips. This aſſault, however, was no farther ſerviceable than by diverting the attention of the beſieged from the approaches made by land, as the Moro ſtood too high to be much affected by a cannonade from the ſhips. A conſtant fire was maintained from eight o'clock in the morning until two in the afternoon. Captain Gooſtrey of the Cambridge was killed in the beginning of the engagement, and his ſhip was ſo much damaged, and had ſo many men killed and wounded, that it was thought proper to order her off, and for the ſame reaſons the Dragon ſoon after. As the Marlborough ſingly could be of no ſervice, ſhe was ordered off likewiſe. Captain Lindſey of the Trent ſupplied the place of Captain Gooſtrey, and behaved with remarkable bravery. Captain Campbell of the Stirling Caſtle, who had been ordered to lead until the firſt ſhip was properly placed, did not perform his part according to the directions he had received, and was obliged to quit the ſervice.

Meanwhile cruiſers were detached round the iſland, which brought in ſeveral prizes, particularly the Venganza frigate of twenty-ſix guns, the Marté of eighteen, and a ſchooner laden with coffee.

As the operations of the fleet againſt the Moro were found by this experiment to be unadviſeable, the progreſs of the ſiege was thereby retarded, and the final iſſue of the attempt became extremely uncertain. Never during the war with France had the valour of the Engliſh been ſo well matched. Here was at length an adverſary worthy of our arms, and our whole military ſkill and ſpirit were put to the ſevereſt trial. To add to the embarraſſments of the beſiegers, their principal battery, being chiefly conſtructed of timber and faſcines, which were dried by the heat of the climate, and the continual cannonade, took fire, on the 3d of July, and the flames raged with ſuch violence that almoſt the whole work was conſumed. Thus the labour of five or ſix hundred men for ſeventeen days, and which was expected to open a way into the fort in a ſhort time, was deſtroyed in a moment, and the ſame labour to be renewed, when the men were much leſs able to perform it; for now epidemical diſtempers, ſuch as conſtantly attack Europeans in hot climates, began to make great ravages both in the army and navy. Theſe were rendered more fatal by the want of neceſſaries and refreſhments. The proviſions were bad, and the troops that carried on the attack were ill ſupplied with water, although fine ſtreams flowed in great abundance to the weſtward of the Puntal, and the boats-crews of the whole fleet remained unemployed. Five thouſand ſoldiers were, at one time, down with various diſtempers, and no fewer than three thouſand ſeamen were in the ſame miſerable condition. The large reinforcement expected to arrive from New York had not appeared, ſo that the fatigues which were unavoidably impoſed on thoſe in health were almoſt inſupportable. The long continuance of ſo large a fleet on an open ſhore, ſubjected it to imminent danger of periſhing, if the hurricane ſeaſon ſhould come on before the reduction of the place.

In the midſt of theſe accumulated diſtreſſes, the whole army, as one man, ſeemed determined on conqueſt or death; a more ſtriking inſtance of inflexibility cannot be produced. New batteries were erected; the fire ſoon became equal, and then ſuperior, to that of the enemy. By the 20th of July the cannon from the fort was ſilenced, the upper works beaten to pieces, and a lodgement made in the covered way. The Jamaica fleet had alſo arrived in its paſſage to England, and from thence the brave aſſailants were ſupplied with many conveniences, and ſome refreſhments. Theſe favourable circumſtances were heightened by the arrival of a conſiderable part of the troops from New York on the 28th. Four of the American tranſports had been wrecked in their paſſage through the Bahama Straits, but the ſeamen and ſoldiers on-board them were ſaved; five other tranſports fell into the hands of a ſquadron of French ſhips, on the 21ſt of July; they had on-board 350 ſoldiers of Anſtruther's regiment, and 150 provincial troops.

The operations of the beſiegers were now carried on with renewed activity. The only place by which the foot of the wall was acceſſible, happened to be a thin ridge of rock, left at the point of the baſtion, to cover the extremity of the ditch, which would otherwiſe have been open to the ſea. Along this ridge the miners paſſed, without cover, to the foot of the wall, where they made a lodgement with little loſs. Meanwhile they ſunk a ſhaft without the covered way, in order to form a mine for throwing the counterſcarp into the ditch, ſhould it be found neceſſary to fill it; and continued their former ſap along the glacis.

It now became viſible to the governor of the Havannah, that the fort muſt be ſpeedily reduced, if left to its own ſtrength. At all events ſomething muſt be done, in this exigence, for its immediate relief. Accordingly, before break of day, a body of twelve hundred men, moſtly compoſed of the country militia, mulattoes, and negroes, were tranſported acroſs the harbour,climbed the hills, and made three attacks upon our poſts. But the ordinary guards, though ſurpriſed, defended themſelves ſo reſolutely, that the Spaniards made little impreſſion, and were not able to ruin any part of the approaches. The poſts attacked were ſpeedily reinforced, and the enemy, who were little better than a diſorderly rabble, and not conducted by proper officers, fell into terror and confuſion. They were driven precipitately down the hill with great ſlaughter: ſome gained their boats, others were drowned; and they loſt, in this well-imagined but ill-executed ſally, upwards of four hundred men.

This was the laſt effort for the relief of the Moro; which, abandoned as it was by the city, and while an enemy was undermining its walls, held out with a ſullen reſolution, and made no ſort of propoſal to capitulate. The miners, at length, did their buſineſs. A part of the wall was blown up, and fell into the ditch, leaving a breach, which, though very narrow and difficult, the general and engineer judged practicable. The Engliſh troops, who were commanded on this moſt dangerous of all ſervices, rejoiced that it was to be the end of labours much more grievous to them. They mounted the breach, entered the fort, and formed themſelves with ſo much celerity, and with ſuch a ſpirited coolneſs of reſolution, that the enemy, who were drawn up to receive them, and who might have made the aſſault an affair of great bloodſhed, aſtoniſhed at their countenance, fled on all hands. About four-hundred were ſlaughtered on the ſpot, or ran to the water, where they periſhed. Four hundred more threw down their arms, and obtained quarter. The ſecond in command, the Marquis de Gonſales, fell whilſt he was making brave but ineffectual efforts to animate and rally his people. Don Louis de Velaſco, the governor, who had hitherto defended the fort with ſuch obſtinate bravery, ſeemed reſolved, in this extremity, to ſhare its fate. He collected an hundred men in an intrenchment he had made round his colours. But ſeeing that all his companions were fled from him, or ſlaughtered around him, diſdaining to retire, or call for quarter, he received a mortal wound, and fell, offering his ſword to his conquerors. The Engliſh wept, with pity and admiration, over that unfortunate valour which had occaſioned them ſo many toilſome hours, and coſt them ſo many lives.

The ſurrender of the town did not immediately follow upon the reduction of the Moro, although that fortreſs, from its elevation, was capable of reducing it to ruins. Don Juan de Prado, the governor, directed his ineffectual fire againſt that fortreſs, and even ſent down a large ſhip of the line to the entrance of the harbour, from whence ſhe could batter it with more effect. But theſe attempts proved unavailing, and in a few hours ſhe removed to a greater diſtance. In the mean time Major-general Keppel, with the advice of Mr. Mackullar, the chief engineer, determined upon erecting a line of batteries along the hill of the Cavannos, on the extremity of which the fort ſtands, whereby almoſt the whole eaſtern ſide of the city was commanded.

manded. Preparations for an attack were alſo made, and batteries erected to the weſtward of the town, which on that ſide had hitherto been only watched.

On the 10th of Auguſt, every thing was prepared in order to deal deſtruction on the town; but before the attack began, Lord Albemarle ſent a flag of truce by an aid-de camp, to acquaint the governor with the ruin that threatened the place, and ſummoned him to capitulate. The governor, in a reſolute but civil manner, returned, that he would defend the place committed to him to the laſt extremity, and began to fire. The next morning, at day-break, about five-and-forty cannon, and eight mortars, began to play againſt the town and the Puntal, which laſt was ſilenced before ten o'clock: in another hour the north baſtion was almoſt diſabled. About two in the afternoon, white flags were hung out all round the place, as well as on-board the admiral's ſhip in the harbour; and in a little time a flag of truce arrived at the Britiſh head quarters, with an offer to capitulate. For ſome time the terms could not be ſettled, as the Spaniards contended that their ſhips in the harbour ſhould be allowed to proceed to Spain, but ſuch a condition was abſolutely refuſed. They alſo endeavoured to have their harbour declared neutral during the war, but this was equally inadmiſſible. After two days ſpent in altercation, theſe points were given up, and the Britiſh troops were put into poſſeſſion of the Havannah on the 14th of Auguſt, after having been landed two months and eight days.

The capitulation ſecured to the inhabitants their private property, their laws and religion. The Spaniſh garriſon, conſiſting of about nine hundred, including officers, were allowed the honours of war; and both ſoldiers and ſailors were to be conveyed to Spain, together with the governor, the Spaniſh commodore, the viceroy of Peru, and governor of Carthagena. The Spaniards loſt upwards of ſeven hundred men in the ſiege. The amount of their garriſon, at the firſt, was very inadequate to the importance of the place which they were entruſted to defend. In the courſe of the ſiege, about five hundred of the Britiſh troops, including fifteen officers, were killed upon the ſpot, or died of their wounds; and about ſeven hundred, thirty-nine of whom were officers, died of diſtempers which raged with redoubled violence after the reduction of the place. The men returned to their native country with conſtitutions ſo broken and decayed, that a ſicklineſs and languor were entailed on the remainder of their lives.

Great quantities of artillery, ſmall-arms, ammunition, and warlike ſtores, fell into the hands of the conquerors. Nine ſhips of the line, with four frigates, were taken; three they had ſunk at the beginning of the ſiege, as we have related; two more were in forwardneſs on the ſtocks, and theſe were ſet on fire by the Engliſh. Spain, by this dreadful blow, was deprived of one-fifth part of her whole naval ſtrength, whilſt the Engliſh acquired to the amount of two millions ſterling and upwards, in ſilver, tobacco, and valuable merchandiſe, collected on his Catholic majeſty's account. Nor was it the leaſt advantage that accrued from the poſſeſſion of the Havannah, that thereby all the Spaniſh ſettlements in the weſtern regions become expoſed to any attempts which might be thought proper to be made upon them.

It muſt greatly affect every human breaſt to learn, that by ſecret agreement made between the Britiſh miniſtry and the commanders in chief on the expedition, the common mode of diſtributing the prize-money was eſſentially altered in this inſtance, whereby the proportion accruing to a private man or an inferior officer was inconſiderable. A cruel and oppreſſive return for ſuch ſufferings, and ſuch atchievements!

Sir George Pocock ſet ſail with the fleet and tranſports on the 3d of November, on his return to England,

land, the whole conſiſting of about ſixty ſail. He had a remarkably quick paſſage until he came within two hundred leagues of the lands-end; but then the wind coming about to the eaſt, and blowing a ſtorm, the whole ſquadron was diſperſed and driven out of its courſe, many of the ſhips leaky and ill-provided, and equally unable to make land, or keep the ſea. In this wretched condition ſeveral periſhed. The Marlborough, Captain Burnet, bore away in the utmoſt diſtreſs for Liſbon, but was unable to make the harbour; fifty men were kept conſtantly at the pumps night and day, till the whole crew was ſo exhauſted, that the ſhip could not have been kept a-float a night longer, when moſt happily the Antelope from Newfoundland came up and reſcued them from deſtruction. The Temple man of war and the Devonſhire actually foundered, but their crews were ſaved; the Culloden was reduced almoſt to a wreck; twelve of the tranſports ſunk; and that part of the fleet which rode out the ſtorm ſuffered the moſt dreadful diſtreſs both from famine and fatigue, inſomuch that, when the men landed, their ghaſtly and dejected looks accorded very ill with the glorious ſucceſſes of their expedition. Many of the ſhips beat the ſeas for near a month after they had made the land; and being leaky and worm-eaten when they left the Havannah, during that time death preſented itſelf to their view in all its terrors.

Our readers have now ſeen the arms of Great Britain triumphing over France and Spain in the great weſtern Archipelago, by which no other reſtraints were laid on the progreſs of her arms in thoſe regions, than her own ſpirit of moderation ſhould preſcribe, we are next to relate a conqueſt equally important and glorious made upon the Spaniards in the other ſection of the globe, the inhabitants of which country are almoſt exactly the *periœci* of thoſe of Cuba, and conſequently have their day during the other's night, it being noon with the one when it is midnight with the other. But before we proceed to relate the expedition againſt the *Manillas*, it will be neceſſary to relate the means by which it was ſet on foot. Colonel Draper, in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India company, who held the ſecond rank at Madras in the year 1759, and was eminently diſtinguiſhed by defending that preſidency againſt General Lally and the French forces, (which occurrence has been ſpoken of in its place, p. 200,) being in a bad ſtate of health, quitted the Coromandel coaſt, and took a voyage to Canton, in hopes of finding relief in the more temperate climate of China. Whilſt he reſided in that city, he was furniſhed with many opportunities of obſerving the intercourſe ſubſiſting between the Chineſe and the Spaniards at Manilla. This led him to employ his ſeaſon of a relaxation from military operations, in gaining a knowledge of the ſituation of the Philippine iſlands. He found the ſtate of defence in which that valuable ſettlement was kept, to be very defective. A long courſe of uninterrupted tranquillity had thrown them off their guard, the diſſenſions which are ſo continually breaking in upon the repoſe of Europe being little attended to in this remote diſtrict of the world. Colonel Draper proceeded from China to England, where he reſided when the miſunderſtanding with Spain firſt aroſe; hereupon he laid before Lord Anſon and the ſecretary of ſtate, the information he had gained concerning Manilla; the miniſtry beſtowed due attention on this important object, and, as ſoon as the war broke out, encouraged the undertaking of an expedition againſt that city; but, the poſture of public affairs rendering it unſafe to ſend any freſh ſhips or troops to ſo great a diſtance, the Eaſt-India company were ſoon induced to adopt the meaſure, on condition of receiving one third of the booty or ranſom if it ſhould prove ſucceſsful. Government did nothing more than furniſh a frigate to convey Colonel Draper to Madras, where the neceſſary force was to be drawn together.

The colonel arrived at Madras the latter end of June 1762, and was immediately appointed brigadier-general and commander in chief of the expedition. Admiral Stephens died in the latter end of the year 1761, whereupon the command in chief of the fleet devolved on Rear-admiral Corniſh, who uſed the utmoſt diſpatch in fitting out a proper number of ſhips for the occaſion. He furniſhed five hundred and fifty ſeamen, and two hundred and ſeventy marines for the ſervice on land; the ſeventy-ninth regiment and a company of the royal artillery were embarked, the government at Madras furniſhed thirty matroſſes and ſix hundred ſepoys; a company of caffres, one of topazes, and one of pioneers; two companies of Frenchmen were likewiſe enliſted in their ſervice, with ſome hundreds of unarmed laſcars, for the uſe of the engineers and park of artillery. The whole force for the land operations amounted to two thouſand three hundred men in arms. A ſquadron, conſiſting of the Elizabeth, Grafton, Lenox, Weymouth, and Argo, firſt ſailed under the command of Commodore Tiddiman; whilſt the admiral followed with the Norfolk, Panther, America, and Seaford; the South-Sea Caſtle, and Admiral Stevens, two ſtore-ſhips, the Oſterley company's ſhip. The Falmouth, at the requeſt of the preſident and council, was left to convoy the Eſſex Eaſt-India ſhip, which had the treaſure on-board for the China cargoes.

The diſpatch uſed in getting ready this armament was aſtoniſhing, all the requiſites for the expedition were prepared and ſhipped in three weeks, amidſt a raging and perpetual ſurf. The ſucceſs of the expedition in a good meaſure depended on the diſpatch uſed in forwarding it, as all operations in the eaſt are regulated by the courſe of the monſoons. The ſeaſon of action was far advanced when Draper arrived, and the ſetting in of the north-weſt monſoon might ruin the whole deſign. The Sea-horſe, Captain Grant, had been previouſly diſpatched through the Straits of Malacca,

lacca, to cruiſe in the tract for the Philippine iſlands, in order to intercept any veſſel that he might ſuſpect was going to Manilla to appriſe the Spaniards of the deſign that was formed of attacking them.

Commodore Tiddiman's diviſion of the fleet ſailed on the 29th of July, the remainder, commanded by the admiral, three days after. Before they ſailed, every thing was ſettled with relation to the co-operation of the land and ſea-forces, to the diſtribution of the plunder, and to the government of the place, in caſe it ſhould be taken, that no diſpute might ariſe in the courſe of their operations. The India company were, by agreement, as before obſerved, to have a third of the booty, or the ranſom; by orders from England, the government of the conquered country was to be veſted in that body; the land and ſea-forces, by common conſent, were mutually to participate in the diſtribution of their ſeveral captures, according to the rules eſtabliſhed in the navy. Theſe precautions had ſo good an effect, that no circumſtance of diſagreement once aroſe between the army and the marine, either in the conduct of the enterprize, or in the diviſion of the advantages of it. Nothing diſtinguiſhes this war more from every former one, in which we have been engaged, than that, in ſo many conjunct expeditions, and in ſuch a vaſt variety of difficulties and of ſervices, there was ſo perfect an harmony, and ſo cordial a co-operation between the land and the ſea-forces, that there is but one ſingle inſtance of the leaſt degree of diſcord or diſſenſion between them. Nothing can more advantageouſly characteriſe the ſpirit of the age.

On the 19th the fleet arrived at Malacca, a ſettlement held by the Dutch, who doubtleſs were not a little chagrined to find the Engliſh attempting to extend their conqueſts in the vicinity of thoſe parts, where theſe republicans wiſh to poſſeſs abſolute dominion; theſe ſentiments were however ſuppreſſed, and the ſhips ſupplied with water and refreſhments; but the difficulty of watering the ſquadron made it the 27th before the admiral could leave the road. On the 24th of September, the whole fleet entered the bay of Manilla, and caſt anchor off the fort of Cavite.

The Philippines were formerly known by the name of the Manillas; they form a principal diviſion of that immenſe Indian Archipelago, which conſiſts of many hundred iſlands, ſome of them the largeſt, and many of them by nature the richeſt, in the world; and which lie in the torrid zone, extending from the nineteenth degree of north latitude, almoſt in a continued chain, to New Guinea. The Philippines form the northernmoſt cluſter of theſe iſlands, and the iſland of Luçonia, where the city of Manilla ſtands in fifteen degrees of latitude, in the moſt northern of the cluſter. They were diſcovered in the year 1521, by the famous navigator Ferdinand Magellan; and were added to the Spaniſh monarchy by Don Louis de Velaſco, in 1564, in the reign of Philip II. under whom the Spaniſh dominion was greatly augmented, and its real ſtrength at the ſame time ſo impaired, that two centuries have not reſtored it to its former vigour. The Philippines are ſcarcely inferior to any of the other iſlands of Aſia, in all the natural productions of that happy climate; and they are by far the beſt ſituated for an extended and advantageous commerce. By their poſition they form the centre of intercourſe with China, Japan, and the ſpice iſlands; and whilſt they are under the dominion of Spain, they connect the Aſiatic and American commerce, and become the general mart for the rich manufactures and products of the one, and for the treaſures of the other.

Luçonia or Luzon, is in length ſomewhat more than three hundred miles, its breadth is extremely unequal, and no where exceeds eighty miles. The Spaniſh inhabitants may amount to three thouſand, they have the government and the beſt part of the commerce; the Chineſe are the artiſans; and the ſoil is chiefly cultivated by the natives. Theſe latter are of various origins, and of different degrees of ſavageneſs, according as they have been more or leſs ſubdued by religion, or refined by intercourſe with ſtrangers. For ſo large and fertile an iſland, the number of inhabitants is but ſmall; the whole, perhaps, not amounting to half a million; and of thoſe not a third are in ſubjection to the Spaniards. The capital, which was always called Manilla, is ſeated at the mouth of a large river at the bottom of a bay, which is thirty leagues in circumference. The harbour is ſemicircular; in it ſhips are ſheltered from the ſouth winds, but expoſed to thoſe from the north, unleſs they anchor very cloſe to the ſhore. Three or four hundred Indians were formerly employed in the docks, which have been ſo much increaſed within theſe few years, that men of war are now built there for Europe.

Ever ſince the Spaniards firſt ſettled in the Eaſt and Weſt-Indies, a traffic has been carried on between Manilla and Mexico. About the month of July, a galleon annually ſets out from the port of Manilla, commonly of two thouſand tons burden. After getting clear of a multitude of iſlands and rocks which delay its courſe, it ſteers eaſt north-eaſt, in order to meet with the weſt winds in thirty degrees latitude, which carry it in a ſtrait courſe to Acapulco. This veſſel, which is very heavy laden, is ſix months on her paſſage. Two ſhips are frequently freighted in the year, one of which arrives at Manilla a month or two after the other has quitted it.

The hoſtile appearance of the Britiſh fleet was the firſt notice which the Spaniards received of a war having broke out between the two nations. The Philippine galleon, indeed, from Acapulco, had juſt then appeared in the bay, and ſhe brought the intelligence; but, deſcrying our fleet, changed her courſe, and put again to ſea.

The diſpoſitions for landing were made a little to the ſouth of the town. The boats were ranged in three diviſions, under the protection of the men of war. Frigates were ordered to the right and left, by a briſk fire to cover their flanks, and to diſperſe the enemy, who began to aſſemble in great numbers, both horſe and foot, to oppoſe the deſcent. Meaſures were ſo well taken, that the enemy retired from the fire of the ſquadron, and left the coaſt clear. The Engliſh with an even front made towards the ſhore, and through a violent ſurf, which daſhed many of their boats to pieces, (but fortunately without any loſs of lives,) gained the coaſt, and formed upon the beach, on the 24th of September.

The days which immediately ſucceeded their landing were ſpent in ſeizing the moſt advantageous poſts, in ſecuring the communication with the navy, and in reconnoitring the roads and approaches to the town. They found it regularly fortified, and defended by ſome good works, a number of excellent cannon, garriſoned by about eight hundred regular troops, and incapable by its extent of being completely inveſted by ſuch an army as ours; and in a condition, therefore, of being conſtantly ſupplied from the country, and reinforced by the natives, a fierce and daring people, who in a ſhort time came to the aſſiſtance of the place with a body of ten thouſand men, armed in their barbarous faſhion.

The governor was, indeed, a churchman, the Archbiſhop of the Manillas, by a policy not without precedent in the Spaniſh colonies, in which they have been known more than once to unite not only the civil government, but the command of the forces, with the eccleſiaſtical dignity. But, however unqualified by his character for the defence of a city attacked, the archbiſhop ſeemed not unfit for it by his ſpirit and reſolution. Theſe, together with the obſtructions which aroſe from the ſeaſon, (which grew daily more embarraſſing,)

raſſing,) were the difficulties our army had to contend with. On the other hand, they had many circumſtances in their favour. The ditch of the town, in ſome important parts, had never been completed; the covered way was out of repair; the glacis was too low; ſome of the out-works were not armed; and the ſuburbs, which they had not time to burn, afforded ſhelter to our troops, and covered them in their approaches.

The ability of the commanders, and the ſpirit of the troops, made uſe of all theſe advantages, and overcame all theſe difficulties. The country being almoſt wholly flooded, they were obliged to throw themſelves into the houſes, which were under the fire of the baſtions; and the Spaniards cannonaded their quarters, which were nearer the walls than the ordinary rules of war preſcribed. Neceſſity ſuperſeded theſe rules; and even the precipitation with which they were obliged to urge their motions, had a good effect, and probably haſtened the deciſion of the ſiege in their favour ſooner than could be expected from a more regular proceeding, and more favourable circumſtances.

On the 26th, before batteries could be erected, the enemy attemped a ſally with about four hundred men. But this eſſay of their ſtrength proved extremely diſcouraging to them, and they were obliged to retire with loſs and precipitation. The ſuperior ſkill and bravery of our troops appeared in ſo ſtriking a light in this little engagement, that it was thought it might prove an inducement to the governor to endeavour at advantageous terms by an early ſurrender. But his anſwer to the ſummons of our commander was more ſpirited than the behaviour of his garriſon had hitherto proved. It was plain we had to expect nothing but what we were able to command.

Through all the difficulties of the ſeaſon our works proceeded; and by the indefatigable vigour and unconquerable ſpirit of our ſoldiers and ſeamen, three batteries for cannon and mortars were raiſed, and played on the town with conſiderable effect. The Indians, from time to time, continued their attacks; but they rather moleſted our troops than obſtructed their progreſs. Equally ignorant of the laws of humanity and of arms, they murdered our people, wherever they met them diſperſed from the army; and even perpetrated the ſame cruelty on an Engliſh officer, employed under the protection of a flag of truce, and of an act of generoſity to an enemy, in conducting into the town the governor's nephew who had been taken. Their ſavage cruelty entitled them to no mercy; and whenever they fell into the hands of the Engliſh ſoldiers, they found none.

As little ſucceſs attended the attempt in which this cruel action was committed, as they met with in their former ſally. The operations againſt the town proceeded with unremitted vigour and diligence. The bombardment continued day and night. The navy, which had hitherto aſſiſted no otherwiſe than by furniſhing men and ſtores, (in which, however, it was of great ſervice,) began now to take a direct part. Commodore Tiddiman in the Elizabeth, and Captain Brereton in the Falmouth, were ordered by the admiral to place themſelves as near the town as the depth of water would permit, and ſecond the operations of the land-forces by enfilading the front they propoſed to attack. Although the ſhallows obliged the ſhips to keep at too great a diſtance to have all the effect they wiſhed, this fire, which was opened on a new quarter, and was kept up without intermiſſion, added not a little to the fatigue of the garriſon, and to the confuſion and terror of the inhabitants.

Whilſt the ſiege advanced in ſo ſucceſsful a manner, by the perſeverance, and by the uncommon harmony and united efforts, of the land and ſea-forces, the elements threatened to deſtroy, at once, all the effects of their induſtry and courage. On the 1ſt of October a deluge of rain poured down, accompanied by a ſtorm of wind. The ſquadron was in the greateſt danger, all communication with it was entirely cut off. The South Sea Caſtle ſtore-ſhip, which had lately arrived, and contained the greateſt part of the tools and neceſſaries, of which they were now in the greateſt want for completing their works, was driven on-ſhore. The governor of the place added to the advantage of theſe appearances in his favour, by calling in the aid of his eccleſiaſtical character. To raiſe the ſpirits of the inhabitants, ſunk by the progreſs of the beſiegers, he gave out that an angel from the Lord was gone forth to deſtroy the Engliſh, like the hoſt of Sennacherib.

By an extraordinary ſpecies of good fortune, theſe menacing circumſtances were attended with their particular advantages, and rather facilitated than obſtructed the progreſs of the ſiege. The ſtore-ſhip, by being driven aſhore, without any conſiderable damage, gave an eaſy and ready acceſs to all the military ſtores and proviſions ſhe contained, and which, if it had not been for this accident, could not have been ſupplied by boats in many days, as the wind continued to blow for a long time after, and that a violent ſurf broke high upon the beach. Beſides, in the ſituation in which this veſſel lay on ſhore, her cannon became, in a great degree, a protection to the rear of the Engliſh camp. At the ſame time, the confidence, which the enemy repoſed in the natural helps derived from the ſtorm, and in thoſe ſupernatural ones added by their ſuperſtition, rendered them more remiſs and languid in their defence; and, during that time, they gave leſs obſtruction to the progreſs of our troops, than in any other period of the ſiege. Another advantage alſo aroſe to the Engliſh from the ſtorm; for the roaring of the waves prevented the Spaniards from hearing the noiſe of our workmen in the night. Theſe proceeded with ſo much conſtancy and reſolution, that in the midſt of this violent tempeſt, and deluged as they were with the heavy tropical rains, they completed one large battery for heavy cannon, and another for mortars, made good their parallels and communications, ſecured their moſt material poſts, and put themſelves in a condition immediately on the ceaſing of the ſtorm, to batter the place in breach.

Twelve pieces of cannon, on that face of the baſtion which they attacked, were ſilenced in a few hours, and ſo vigorous a fire was kept up from the cannon and mortars upon all the parts whence the Spaniards could annoy our troops, that in leſs than two days all their defences were deſtroyed.

The Spaniards, ſeeing their fortifications no longer tenable, determined to make a concluſive effort, and to avail themſelves of the ſtrength of the garriſon, which their free communication with the country had made as numerous as they could wiſh. For that purpoſe they projected a ſally, diſpoſed in two attacks upon the two moſt important poſts of the Engliſh. The firſt to be made upon a cantonment of the ſeamen, in which they judged, if they could ſucceed, they muſt lay the Engliſh under inſurmountable difficulties, becauſe the ſeamen were known to have had the moſt conſiderable part in the management of the artillery during the whole ſiege. A thouſand Indians were to be employed in the operation. The ſecond body, conſiſting of Indians, and of a ſtrong detachment from the Spaniſh garriſon, was to attack a church which lay near the ſea, covered a flank of the army, and had been of great conſequence for protecting the beſiegers in their approaches, both againſt the enemy's fire and the inundation. An attack had been made, as we have before related, upon this poſt, and they thought it of importance enough to juſtify a ſecond. Theſe deſigns were not ill conceived, and they were executed with ſufficient reſolution.

About three hours before day, on the 4th of October, the Indians marched out upon the firſt attack. They were much encouraged by the inceſſant fall of rain, which they flattered themſelves would have rendered our fire-arms uſeleſs. As for themſelves, they had nothing to apprehend, habituated as they were to the accidents of that climate, and armed only with bows and lances. Their approach was favoured by a great number of thick buſhes, that grew upon the ſide of a rivulet, which they paſſed in the night. By keeping cloſe to them, they eluded the vigilance of the patroles, and fell unexpectedly, and with infinite violence, upon the quarters of the ſeamen. Although ſurpriſed and aſſaulted in the night, when they could diſcern nothing of the enemy but the fury of the attack, they maintained their ground with ſteadineſs, and repelled the foe. Prudently ſatisfied with this advantage, and not riſquing it by an attempt to improve it, they remained firmly in their poſt until day-break, when a picquet of the ſeventy-ninth regiment came to their relief, and falling upon the right flank of the Indians, theſe barbarians fled, were purſued, and routed with the loſs of three hundred men.

It is ſomewhat remarkable, that the Aſiatic Indians of the peninſula of Malacca, and in general of all the iſlands, ſhould differ ſo extremely from the Chineſe, and every other nation of the eaſtern continent. The former are as diſtinguiſhed for their fierce valour, and for a ſingular contempt of death, as the latter have always been for their cowardice, and the ſoftneſs and effeminacy of their manners. In our wars on the Indian continent, the European troops were almoſt the only object of attention. In our attack upon the Philippines, the natives were, at leaſt, to be equally dreaded. In this ſally, had their diſcipline or arms been at all equal to their ſtrength and ferocity, the iſſue of the event had been very doubtful. Even armed as they were, they boldly ruſhed on the very muzzles of our pieces; on every repulſe they repeated their aſſaults with redoubled fury; and died at length, like wild beaſts, gnawing the bayonets of their enemies.

The ſecond attack, which began juſt as they had been defeated in the former, appeared at firſt, in a manner, more favourable to the hopes of the Spaniards. The body of ſepoys that defended the church, which was the object of this attack, not being endowed with the reſolution which diſtinguiſhes our Engliſh ſeamen, were eaſily diſlodged, and driven from their poſt. The enemy, as ſoon as they had ſeized the church, immediately climbed to the top, and from thence poured down a ſtorm of fire on our people who were poſted behind it, and who now lay entirely expoſed to their ſhot. In this diſadvantageous poſition, the European ſoldiers maintained themſelves with reſolution and patience, until a detachment with ten field pieces came to their relief. The Spaniards were at length driven off with the loſs of ſeventy men; nor were we freed from this reſolute attack without loſs on our ſide, Captain Strahan, a brave officer, having fallen, and forty men being killed or wounded in the encounter.

This was the enemy's laſt effort. They were now confined to the walls. Diſcouraged by their frequent and bloody repulſes, the greateſt part of the Indians returned home. The fire from the batteries, which had been a little interrupted by theſe attacks, recommenced with greater ſpirit, and with a more deciſive effect than ever; ſo that the next day the enemy's cannon were all ſilenced, and the breach appeared practicable.

Any other people but the Spaniards of this garriſon, in theſe circumſtances would have immediately prepared a capitulation, when no law of honour, becauſe no proſpect of ſucceſs, required a further defence; at leaſt, if they had deſperately reſolved on the laſt extremity, they would have made ſuch works, and poſted their men in ſuch a manner, as to have rendered the firſt attempt to a ſtorm as deſperate on our ſide, as this too late defence was on theirs. But their reſolution was only a ſullen obſtinacy, uninſpired by a true military ſpirit, as it was wholly uninformed by any true military ſkill.

Our commander, not finding any deſire of capitulating in the enemy, prepared without delay, and with the moſt judicious arrangements, for the ſtorm. All our troops were gradually and privately aſſembled in proper poſts, ſo as to give the enemy no alarm or notice of the deſign; whilſt the batteries kept a continual fire, in order to clear every part of the works, from whence we might apprehend any moleſtation. This fire had ſo good an effect, that a body of Spaniards, who had begun to aſſemble on the baſtion which was the object of the attack, were diſperſed by the exploſion of ſome ſhells. The Engliſh took immediate advantage of this event. By the ſignal of a general diſcharge of their artillery and mortars, and under the cover of a thick ſmoke, which blew directly upon the town, they ruſhed on to the aſſault, October 6. Sixty volunteers of different corps led the way, ſupported by the grenadiers of the ſeventy-ninth regiment. A body of pioneers to clear the breach, and, if neceſſary, to make lodgments, followed; a battalion of ſeamen advanced next, ſupported by two grand diviſions of the ſeventy-ninth regiment; the troops of the Eaſt-India company cloſed the rear.

Diſpoſed in this excellent order, led by officers in whom they had the utmoſt confidence, and animated by the proſpect of a ſpeedy concluſion of their labours, they mounted the breach with amazing ſpirit and rapidity. The Spaniards diſperſed in a moment; the Britiſh troops advanced with little reſiſtance into the city, and completed the conqueſt. An hundred Spaniards and Indians poſted in a guard-houſe, refuſed quarter, and were cut to pieces. Three hundred more, who endeavoured to eſcape over a deep and rapid river, were drowned in the attempt. The governor retired into the citadel; but as that place was not tenable, he ſoon ſurrendered at diſcretion. General

neral Draper and the admiral, though able to command every thing, admitted the inhabitants to a capitulation, by which they enjoyed their liberties, lives, properties, and the admimiſtration of their domeſtic government. A ranſom of a million ſterling purchaſed theſe terms. And thus Great Britain, after a ſiege, ſhort indeed in the duration, but conſiderable for its difficulties and hardſhips, became poſſeſſed of this important place. The conquerors found here every refreſhment fit to recruit the troops after their fatigues, and abundance of all ſtores neceſſary to refit the ſquadron. The ſurrender of Manilla not only comprehended that of the whole country, of which it is the capital, but of all thoſe numerous and valuable iſlands which are its dependencies.

Whilſt the ſiege was carrying on, the admiral diſpatched the Panther, of fifty guns, Captain Parker, and the Argo frigate, Captain King, in queſt of the galleon which was ſuppoſed to be on the coaſt. The capture of this ſhip and her treaſure might be conſidered as a national object. They ſailed on the 4th of October, and before their departure the officers of the navy very generouſly agreed to ſhare with the land-forces the produce of any prizes that might be made in this cruiſe; the army had before agreed to ſhare with the navy any booty that might be taken on land, the diſtribution of which to be made according to rules fixed by his majeſty for the ſea-ſervice.

On the 30th of October, the two ſhips being off the iſland of Capul, (very nearly in the ſame ſtation with Commodore Anſon in the Centurion, when he took the Noſtra Signora de Cabadonga, in the year 1743,) they deſcried a ſail about two leagues to leeward, ſtanding to the northward; but, by the rapidity of a countercurrent to that which the enemy was in, the Panther was driven among ſhallows, and in the utmoſt danger of being loſt. The frigate having eſcaped the danger, got up with the chace, and engaged her near two hours, but was ſo roughly handled, that Captain King was obliged to bring-to to repair his damages. By this time the current ſlackened, which enabled Captain Parker to get under ſail with the chace in ſight. About nine the next morning he came up with her, and after battering her for two hours within half muſket-ſhot, ſhe ſtruck, having made but little reſiſtance, truſting entirely to the extreme thickneſs of her ſides, which the Panther's ſhot was not able to penetrate, except in her upper works. Captain Parker was no leſs diſappointed than ſurpriſed, when the general came on-board, to find, that inſtead of the St. Philippina, which he had been in purſuit of, he had engaged and taken the Saintiſſima Trinidada, which ſailed from Manilla for Acapulco the 1ſt of Auguſt, and had got three hundred leagues to the eaſtward of the Embocadero, but, meeting with a hard gale of wind, was diſmaſted, and put back to refit. She had eight hundred men on-board, and was pierced for ſixty guns; but had only thirteen when taken. Though the captors were diſappointed in the treaſure they expected, yet they had made a prize of immenſe value; her cargo, which conſiſted of rich merchandize, being computed to be worth more than half a million ſterling.

Through the whole of this victorious war, there was ſcarcely any conqueſt more advantageous in itſelf, or more honourably atchieved, than that of the Philippines. The Britiſh forces effected their landing before Manilla on the 24th of September, their battery of cannon was not completed until the 3d of October, and on the 6th they were maſters of the city. In this enterprize the number of troops employed was ſmall, the ſeaſon of operation rainy and tempeſtuous, the communication between the land and ſea-forces always difficult, frequently hazardous, and ſometimes impracticable; and our little army ſurrounded and harraſſed, and, as it were, beſieged itſelf, by numerous bodies of Indians, who, though undiſciplined and ill-armed, yet, by a daring reſolution, and contempt of death, became not only troubleſome, but formidable.

With regard to the value of the acquiſition; a territory fell into our hands, conſiſting of fourteen conſiderable iſlands, which, from their extent, fertility, and convenience of commerce, furniſhed the materials of a great kingdom. By this acquiſition, joined to our former ſucceſſes, we ſecured all the avenues of the Spaniſh trade, and interrupted all the communications between the parts of their vaſt but unconnected empire. The conqueſt of the Havannah had cut off, in a great meaſure, the intercourſe of their wealthy continental colonies with Europe. The reduction of the Philippines excluded them from Aſia; and from both they were liable to be further and moſt eſſentially annoyed, by a longer continuance of the war. The plunder taken was far more than ſufficient to indemnify the charges of the expedition; a circumſtance not very uſual in our modern wars. It amounted to upwards of a million and a half.

General Draper, ſoon after his return to England, was created a knight of the Bath. The account of the expedition, from its commencement to its concluſion, which this officer ſent to the ſecretary of ſtate, ſhews, that he was not only capable of acting what deſerves to be written, but of writing what deſerves to be read.

One half of the ranſom money, which was ſtipulated to be paid for the preſervation of the city of Manilla, (the place being taken by aſſault, and therefore, according to the rules of war, the inhabitants, and all their effects, were at the abſolute diſpoſal of the conquerors,) amounting to two million of dollars, or 450,000l. ſterling, was paid, by bills drawn, by the governor-general of the iſland on the treaſury of Spain, which were preſented for payment after the ratification of peace between the two kingdoms; but the payment thereof was refuſed, on the plea, that thoſe who then compoſed the civil power at Manilla were forced into terms that were oppreſſive and unjuſt, from the dread of being put to the ſword if they refuſed compliance; and that, notwithſtanding theſe ſtipulations were entered into, General Draper ordered, or ſuffered, the city to be ſacked or pillaged for forty hours, by *four thouſand* Engliſh, who plundered it of more than a million of dollars. On which account they contend, that the capitulation ought to be void.

In anſwer to this charge, Draper replied, "that the number of troops which entered Manilla when it was ſtormed, amounted to little more than *two thouſand*, which were a motley compoſition of ſeamen, ſoldiers, ſepoys, caffres, laſcars, topaſes, French and German deſerters: the difficulty of reſtraining any troops, in the firſt fury of an aſſault, is well known; but it muſt be much greater when compoſed of ſuch a variety and confuſion of people, who differed as much in ſentiment and language as in dreſs and complexion. Several hours elapſed before the principal inhabitants could be brought to a conference: during that interval the inhabitants were undoubtedly great ſufferers, but ſuch violence was antecedent to ſettling terms of capitulation, and by the laws of war, the place, with all its contents, became the unqueſtionable property of the captors, until a ſufficient equivalent was given in lieu of it. That ſeveral robberies were committed, after the capitulation was ſigned, is acknowledged, but it is denied that the place was pillaged for forty hours, or with the permiſſion of the general, as he immediately iſſued out orders for preſerving the ſtricteſt regularity and decorum, and therein declared, that whoever ſhould be guilty of robberies, or plundering the churches and houſes, ſhould be hanged without mercy."

However ill-founded Sir William Draper, and the officers naval and military engaged in the expedition, might think the plea of the court of Spain, for refuſing payment of the ranſom bills, yet our miniſtry ſeem by their conduct to have had a different opinion of the matter, as they never inſiſted on the fulfilment of the contract. Indeed it ſhould ſeem that the Spaniards at Manilla were dealt by much in the ſame manner as the Aſiatic nabobs have ſince been treated; they were compelled to ſtrip themſelves of their effects to ſave their lives. Had the expedition been undertaken by government, inſtead of by a company of Engliſh merchants, this rigour would not have been exerciſed on the vanquiſhed. See Junius's Letters upon this ſubject.

We have now ſhewn the ſevere revenge which was taken of Spain in America and Aſia for her ill-judged interference in the conteſt between Great Britain and France; there ſtill remains to be related the humiliating ſtroke which that haughty nation received in the quarter of Europe.

On the 29th of May 1762, the Active and Favourite frigates cruiſing off Cape St. Vincent, fell in with a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip called the Hermione, which, immediately on their coming up, ſtruck her colours without firing a gun. She was juſt on the point of entering the port of Cadiz. Her cargo was eſtimated at a million ſterling; ſhe was the richeſt prize which had been taken ſingly for fifty years, but when the produce came to be aſcertained, it was found to amount to 544,648l. 1s. 6d. This prize was carried into Gibraltar, and from thence proceeded under convoy to England. The gold and ſilver being conveyed in covered waggons to London, was carried in proceſſion to the bank, amidſt the acclamations of the people. The captain of each ſhip received 65,000l. common ſailors, 485l. each.

About the latter end of May, intelligence was received at the admiralty that a French ſquadron conſiſting of four men of war, and a bomb-ketch, under the command of M. de Ternay, had ſailed from Breſt under cover of a fog; on-board theſe ſhips the Count de Hauſſonville and about a thouſand land-forces were embarked. As the deſtination of this armament was not known, Sir Edward Hawke, with the Duke of York as rear-admiral of the red, ſailed immediately from Spithead with ſeven ſhips of the line and two frigates in queſt of it; but in this they were diſappointed, for Monſieur de Ternay, ſtretching acroſs the Atlantic, arrived at the Bay of Bulls in Newfoundland on the 24th of June 1762, and finding the iſland little prepared to reſiſt, reduced the forts of St. John, Trinity, and Carbonçar; the Gramont ſloop of war, which lay in the harbour, was likewiſe taken, with ſeveral merchant veſſels. They deſtroyed many ſtages erected for curing cod, and did conſiderable damage to the Engliſh fiſhers and ſettlers on different parts of the coaſt. They afterwards ſet about repairing the fortifications of St. John, with a deſign to hold that place. Mr. Pitt had apprized the miniſtry of the defenceleſs ſtate of Newfoundland, and adviſed the putting it in a better poſture of defence; in conſequence of which, orders had been ſent to Lord Colville at Halifax in the beginning of the month of June, to ſend a ſufficient force there to defeat the deſigns of the French. Theſe inſtructions never reached the commander.

As ſoon as the news of this event arrived in England, a force was fitted out to retake thoſe places; this was, however, rendered unneceſſary by the vigilance and activity of Sir Jeffery Amherſt and Lord Colville; the latter ſailed with a ſmall ſquadron from Halifax, and Colonel Amherſt with a body of forces, collected at New York, Halifax, and Louiſbourg, arrived ſoon after. Theſe troops attacked ſome detachments of the French, advantageouſly poſted in the neighbourhood of St. John, and prepared to attack the town with ſo much ſpirit, that Count Hauſſonville, who preſided there as governor, choſe to offer terms of capitulation, by which the place was reſtored to the Engliſh, and himſelf and his troops ſurrendered priſoners of war, on the 18th of September. This important ſervice was performed with the loſs of only twenty men killed. As M. de Ternay had got out of Breſt by favour of a thick fog, ſo he eſcaped out of the harbour of St. John by the ſame means, but was afterwards ſeen by the Engliſh ſhips when about ſeven leagues from land, who did not ſuppoſe him to be the enemy, as the pilots thought it impoſſible for his ſhips to have overcome the ſwell, and proceeded ſo far without a ſtronger wind than was then blowing.

The united ſtrength of the houſe of Bourbon was not ſufficient to produce a fleet capable of venturing out to ſea, ſo that the operations in the European ſeas were now carried on by ſingle ſhips, and the iſſue of every action which happened during the whole year was uniformly glorious and ſucceſsful to the Britiſh arms. Lord Anſon died in the month of June, who had been firſt lord of the admiralty for near ſeven years; he was ſucceeded in that poſt by the Earl of Halifax. For the defence of the Britiſh coaſt, and in order to anſwer the emergencies of war, a powerful ſquadron was kept in readineſs at Spithead, under the direction of Sir Edward Hawke; another rode at anchor in the Downs under the command of Rear-admiral Moore; from theſe a number of cruiſers were conſtantly detached into the channel, and all round the coaſts of the iſland, and in theſe ſervices they were ſo alert, that every ſhip which entered out of any port of France was in the utmoſt danger of being taken. Sir Charles Saunders rode triumphant in the Mediterranean. Lord Colville, as we have ſeen, commanded the fleet ſtationed at Halifax in Nova Scotia; Sir James Douglas continued at the Leeward iſlands; and Captain Forreſt, ſince the death of Admiral Holmes, was on the Jamaica ſtation.

In the month of March, the Blonde man of war, Captain Kennedy, took the Bertin French Eaſt-Indiaman, valued at upwards of 100,000l. bound from the Mauritius. About the ſame time Captain Man. of the Milford, fell in with a Spaniſh letter of marque bound for the Weſt-Indies. She carried ſixteen ſix-pounders, ten ſwivels, and ninety-four men, and had a valuable cargo on-board. The action was maintained with remarkable ſpirit on both ſides. Captain Man was killed in the early part of the engagement; Mr. Day, the firſt lieutenant, had no ſooner taken the command of the ſhip, than he was ſhot through the head; the next lieutenant, Mr. Naſh, then ſucceeded; and, notwithſtanding he received ſeveral wounds in his hands and face, he fought the ſhip for near twenty-four hours, when the enemy ſtruck.

Captain Hotham of the Eolus, chaſed two Spaniſh ſhips into the bay of Aviles, in the kingdom of Leon, whereupon he ſtood into the bay, and anchored in ſuch a ſituation as to bring his guns to bear not only upon one of the ſhips, but upon a ſmall battery ſituated on an eminence. After a ſharp conteſt, both the battery and ſhip were abandoned; but, before Captain Hotham could take poſſeſſion of his prize, ſhe ran aground, and, bulging, was burnt by the Engliſh.—On the 20th of September he took the Formidable, a French ſhip from Bourdeaux to St. Domingo.

About the ſame time, the Hunter ſloop of war, one of Admiral Moore's cruiſers, falling in with four Dutch merchantmen in the channel, under convoy of a frigate of thirty-ſix guns, the Engliſh captain prepared to examine the lading of the Dutch veſſels, when the commander of the frigate interpoſing, declared he would not ſuffer any ſuch ſearch to be made. The Engliſh ſloop, not being of force ſufficient to compel the Dutchman to comply, threw out a ſignal to the Diana and Cheſter ſhips of war, which were then in ſight, who bore down immediately. The claim to ſearching the ſhips was then renewed, but the Dutch captain continued obſtinate, whereupon the Diana fired a gun to bring him to, which he returned by a broadſide. This brought on an engagement, which continued about a quarter of an hour, when the Dutch colours were ſtruck, but not until the captain had loſt his noſe, and ten of his men were killed. The five ſhips were brought into the Downs, when it appeared that the merchantſhips were laden with contraband goods, had ſailed from Havre de Grace, and were bound to Breſt.

The Lion man of war, on the 1ſt of September, in the chops of the channel, falling in with the Zephyr, a French frigate of thirty-two guns, bound to Newfoundland, having on-board troops, artillery, ſtores, and ammunition, an engagement was kept up for two hours, which was terminated by the Frenchman ſtriking his colours.

On the 23d of October, the enemy loſt the Oiſeau, another frigate of twenty-ſix guns and two hundred and forty men, commanded by the Chevalier de Modene, which fell in with Captain Tonyn, of the Brune, one of Saunders's fleet, about ſeven leagues from Carthagena. The engagement was maintained for ſome time with great ſpirit on both ſides, but at length the chevalier was obliged to ſubmit, having forty-nine men killed and wounded. The Chevalier de Modene loſt his right arm, three of his officers were wounded, and all the reſt killed. On-board the Brune, ſix men were killed and fourteen wounded.

A third French frigate, called the Minerve, was wrecked in the harbour of Villa Franca, in Piedmont, through the raſhneſs and folly of the commander. She had, in company with four French ſhips of war, given chace to the Sheerneſs, an Engliſh frigate, commanded by Captain Clarke, who took refuge in this port, where he anchored, the wind blowing freſh. The Minerve followed him, and as a neutral port debarred them from all acts of hoſtility; the arrogance of the French captain led him to drive his ſhip between the Sheerneſs and the ſhore, probably conſidering it as the moſt reſpectable ſtation; in doing this he ran his ſhip upon the rocks that bound the eaſtern ſide of the harbour. The captain being an inexperienced ſeaman, and his crew no ways adroit, his ſhip was preſently daſhed to pieces. By this time the other French ſhips had entered the harbour, and endeavoured to ſave the people on-board. But herein Captain Clarke was moſt ſucceſsful, who, in this extremity, no longer looked on them as enemies, but as fellow-creatures. He manned all his boats and ſent them to the aſſiſtance of the periſhing Frenchmen, and actually ſaved the lives of the greater part of the ſhip's company; an act of humanity, for which he was thanked in perſon by the French commodore.

Two privateers, the Brilliant and Duke of York, entered a ſmall Spaniſh fort near Cape Finiſterre, which was defended by a battery. In two hours time they drove the Spaniards from their guns, landed, and took poſſeſſion of the fort, hoiſted Engliſh colours, and ſpiked up the cannon. They might have laid a ſmall town adjoining in aſhes, but were ſatisfied with burning two ſhips, and bringing off four more, which were laden with wine, for the uſe of the Spaniſh fleet at Ferrol.

The only capture of any conſequence made by the French during the year 1762, was the Walpole Indiaman, outward bound.

In the Weſt-Indies the Engliſh cruiſers were equally vigilant. Captain Mead of the Fowey of twenty-four nine-pounders, and a hundred and thirty-five men, fell in with la Ventura, a Spaniſh frigate of twenty-ſix twelve-pounders and three hundred men, laden with money to pay the Spaniſh troops at Porto Rico and Hiſpaniola. The engagement began about ſeven leagues off Cape Tiberon, and continued for an hour and a half, when each having ſuſtained great damage, was compelled to ſheer off to refit. Captain Mead having put his ſhip in fighting condition, at eleven o'clock at night bore down a ſecond time on the enemy; but, after diſcharging a broadſide at random, it being too dark to diſcern the enemy, he made ſail to windward, keeping a proper look-out, that he might not loſe ſight of her, but be able to renew the attack to advantage on the approach of day-light. The Fowey then ran cloſe to the Ventura, when the engagement was renewed with more obſtinacy than before. At half paſt eight in the morning, the Spaniſh ſhip having received ſeveral ſhot between wind and water, and being reduced almoſt to a wreck, was compelled to ſtrike her colours. She had near fifty men killed; and both ſhips were ſo much diſabled, that neither of them had tackles left to hoiſt out a boat, nor had they a boat that could ſwim; but Captain Mead contrived, by nailing tarpaulins over the ſhot-holes of a ſmall boat, to bring the Spaniſh officers on-board the Fowey, and conducted his prize ſafe into Port Royal, Jamaica.

About the ſame time the Huſſar frigate, commanded by Captain Carket, attacked four ſhips, lying under a fort in Tiberon bay; one of which carrying ſixteen guns he burnt, ſunk another of fourteen guns, cut out one of ſixteen, and another of twelve guns, which he carried into Jamaica. In this dangerous enterprize, only one man was killed on-board the Huſſar and twelve wounded, whilſt ſeventeen of the French were killed and five wounded.

Captain Ourry of the Acteon, in the latitude of Tobago, took a large Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, bound to Lagueira, laden with artillery, ſtores, and ammunition. And in September, a fleet of twenty-five ſail of French merchantſhips, richly laden with ſugar, coffee, and indigo, took their departure from Cape François for Europe, under convoy of four frigates. Five of theſe veſſels were ſurpriſed, and taken in the night by ſome privateers of New York and Jamaica. The next day this fleet fell in with Commodore Keppel, then commanding a detachment of the fleet from the Havannah, who made prize of all the merchant-ſhips and their convoy, and carried them into Jamaica.

Before we finally cloſe our account of the naval expeditions of this long and glorious war, it will be neceſſary to ſpeak of one which was projected and fitted out at Liſbon, and in which the intereſts of Portugal were particularly conſulted. The Spaniſh ſettlements formed on the banks of the vaſt river of Plate in South America, which diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at the thirty-fifth degree of ſouth latitude, were well ſuited for carrying on an extenſive internal commerce, particularly from the town of Buenos Ayres. The Portugueſe had gained a footing on the northern coaſt, and had erected a ſmall fortified town which they called St. Sacrament, almoſt oppoſite to Buenos Ayres, and which enabled them to carry on a very profitable contraband trade with the neighbouring Spaniards, to the great detriment of the revenue of Spain. This eſtabliſhment had been allowed them under certain reſtrictions by Charles II. of Spain, and the right of the Portugueſe to poſſeſs St. Sacrament, was firmly eſtabliſhed by the peace of Utrecht. Hereupon the colony began to advance ſo rapidly, that the court of Madrid grew diſſatisfied, and a war between the two nations was likely to break out concerning a ſmall ſpot of ground, five thouſand miles diſtant from either kingdom. But the ſtorm was diſſipated by Portugal ſurrendering to Spain in 1750, the colony of St. Sacrament, and the northern border of the river of Plate, in conſequence of receiving from Spain other lands more to the eaſtward; but, great inconveniences being found to ariſe from this exchange, the treaty was cancelled in 1761, and the poſſeſſions of both crowns in thoſe regions were brought back to their former footing, and in this manner they ſtood when the new war broke out in Europe in 1762.

It is probable that the enterprize againſt the Havannah might ſuggeſt to the Portugueſe, and ſome Engliſh merchants reſiding at Liſbon, the fair proſpect which preſented for individuals to acquire wealth, and the crown of Portugal territory, by attacking the Spaniſh ſettlements of Buenos Ayres, which if once gained, would make them maſters of the navigation through a vaſt tract of country. The deſign was embraced by an aſſociation of merchants; two privateers were fitted out, one of which, namedthe Lord Clive, was equal in force to a fifty-gun ſhip; the other, called the Ambuſcade, was of inferior force; a Portugueſe frigate was added to theſe, together with ſome ſmall armed veſſels and ſtore-ſhips. Five hundred troops were put on-board, and the command of the whole given to Captain Macnamara, an Iriſhman, who had formerly commanded a ſhip in the Eaſt-India company's ſervice. This gentleman embarked his whole fortune in the undertaking.

This ſmall but well-appointed ſquadron ſailed from the Tagus on the 30th of Auguſt, and entered the river of Plate about the end of December. They found the Spaniards well prepared for their defence. Having already commenced hoſtilities, by attacking and reducing a ſettlement belonging to the Portugueſe, called Nova Colonia. It was therefore expedient to recover this place before the principal object of their hopes could be attempted. Accordingly, on the 1ſt of January 1763, Captain Macnamara, with two of his ſhips, attacked the batteries with great ſpirit; but the Portugueſe captain hung back at ſuch a diſtance, that none of his ſhot reached the ſhore. The action however was maintained for four hours, at the expiration of which the Spaniſh batteries were almoſt ſilenced: but, whilſt the Engliſh were expecting every moment to ſee the colours ſtruck, the Lord Clive ſuddenly took fire, which was not diſcovered until it had gained too great a head to be extinguiſhed. This was a moſt dreadful and unexpected reverſe of fortune. The enemy immediately renewed their fire. Many of thoſe on-board threw themſelves into the ſea, ſome few of whom fortunately gained the ſhore, but the greater number were drowned. Whilſt this ſcene of horror preſented itſelf, ſome of the Engliſh ſeamen, abandoning all hope of life, repaired to the lower guns, and kept up a conſtant fire, until they periſhed: an inſtance of bravery in employing the laſt moments of a devoted life, which ſtrongly characteriſes the ſpirit of our ſeamen! The commodore was drowned; and, of three hundred and forty ſouls, only ſeventy-eight eſcaped. None of the other veſſels durſt approach her, ſo as to ſave any of the crew, for fear of ſharing the ſame fate. The Ambuſcade with difficulty eſcaped to the Portugueſe ſettlement of Rio de Janeiro, being little better than a wreck. She had ſixty ſhot in her hull, (many of them between wind and water;) ſix feet of water in her hold, and all her rigging ſhot away. Such of the Lord Clive's people as, by dexterity in ſwimming, reached the ſhore, were received with great kindneſs by the Spaniards, now no longer their adverſaries; their calamity having extinguiſhed all animoſity. The Engliſh came to them naked; they clothed them all decently, and uſed them in every other inſtance with equal tenderneſs and indulgence. The war cloſed with an act, the fitteſt in the world to infuſe ſentiments correſpondent to a ſtate of peace and union between brave and generous nations.

In the beginning of the month of September, the Duke de Nivernois arrived in London, bearing the character of ambaſſador and plenipotentiary from the court of France, to treat of peace, whilſt the Duke of Bedford ſet out for France, being inveſted with like powers. The negociation went on as rapidly as could be expected, from all parties being equally ſincere in their endeavours to bring about a peace, and the preliminary articles were ſigned at Fontainbleau, on the 3d of November 1762, and the definitive treaty was ratified on the 10th of February 1763.

In order to form a judgment of this tranſaction, it will be neceſſary firſt to ſee what were the terms which

Mr. Pitt had *offered* to France the year before, when we were not in poſſeſſion either of Martinico, or the Havannah, and the arms of France had the entire aſcendency in Germany.

It was then agreed to reſtore Guadaloupe, Marigalante and Belleiſle, and to receive back Minorca in their ſtead. To take all Canada, with its appurtenances, without yielding to France, Cape Breton, or any other iſland in the gulph or river of St. Laurence, depriving the French of all right to fiſh in that river, gulf, or on its coaſts, but permitting them to fiſh on the banks of Newfoundland, in conſideration of the fortifications of Dunkirk being fully demoliſhed in conformity to the treaty of Utrecht. All acquiſitions on the coaſt of Africa were retained. A neutrality for Germany was rejected with diſdain, as Great Britain would continue to ſupport the King of Pruſſia with efficacy and good faith. The French were required to evacuate Weſtphalia, Heſſe, and their acquiſitions on the Lower Rhine; as well what were held for the empreſs queen, as what the King of France retained for himſelf. The adjuſting the affairs in the Eaſt-Indies was left to the two companies, as the King of Great Britain could not diſpoſe of the rights of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company without their conſent. This meant little elſe than retaining the conqueſts which were made there. As to the reſtitution of the captures made before the declaration of war, this was poſitively refuſed.

The conditions on which peace was *actually ſettled* this year were, That Great Britain and France ſhould each withdraw their troops and ſubſidies from Germany, and obſerve an exact neutrality in the conteſt between the King of Pruſſia and the houſe of Auſtria; Spain ſtipulating to evacuate Portugal, from which kingdom indeed, ſhe had been driven before the ratification of the conditions. In America, the French renounced all pretenſions to the country lying to the eaſtward of the great river Miſſiſſippi, from its ſource to the river Iberville; this renunciation compriſed Nova Scotia or Acadia, alſo all Canada, with its dependencies; the iſland of Cape Breton, and all the other iſlands and coaſts in the gulf and river of St. Laurence. The navigation of the Miſſiſſippi was made common to both nations; and the town of New Orleans retained by France. The French were permitted to fiſh on the north-eaſt and north-weſt parts of Newfoundland; and to dry their fiſh on that part of the iſland only, which is compriſed between Cape Bonaviſta and Point Biche. They were alſo permitted to fiſh within the gulf of St. Laurence, but not to approach within three leagues of any coaſt belonging to England. The two iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, ſituated to the ſouth of Newfoundland, were ceded to the French, but on condition that they ſhould not erect any kind of fortification on either.

By one daſh of the pen the poſſeſſion of the Havannah, that pledge of eternal peace with Spain, was loſt for ever. In exchange for this ſubſtantial tenure, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty ceded Florida, with Fort St. Auguſtine, and the bay of Penſacola, as well as all that Spain poſſeſſes on the continent of North America to the eaſt or to the ſouth-eaſt of the river Miſſiſſippi; a territory of no actual value then, and never likely to become ſo. By the ſeventeenth article his Britannic majeſty engages, that all fortifications which his ſubjects may have erected in the bay of Honduras, ſhall be demoliſhed; and his Catholic majeſty on his part agrees, that his Britannic majeſty's ſubjects, or their workmen, ſhall not be diſturbed in cutting, loading, and carrying away, logwood. They are likewiſe permitted to occupy houſes for themſelves and their families. The form of which article ſeems to imply a favour granted by Spain, inſtead of a conceſſion made by Great Britain. Theſe were the only important articles in the treaty with reſpect to Spain, and by this mode of terminating the war with that kingdom, ſhe received no other chaſtiſement for her petulance than the loſſes which ſhe ſuſtained during the war, by the capture of her treaſure. Herein was ſhewn a ſpirit of moderation which had never before appeared in adjuſting the intereſts of kingdoms, and which future times may poſſibly be more inclined to ridicule than extol..

The iſlands of Martinico, Guadaloupe, Mariegalante, Deſirade, and St. Lucia, were reſtored to France; the Grenades, Tobago, Dominica, and St. Vincent, were ceded and guaranteed to Great Britain. It is remarkable, that France ceded to Great Britain, at this peace, nothing that had become a real ſource of profit to her; the iſlands in the American Archipelago, which were given up, had advanced to no mature ſtate of cultivation, and Canada was rather burthenſome than advantageous.

In Africa, Goree was reſtored to France; and Senegal remained to Great Britain. In every part of the Eaſt-Indies, the French factories and ſettlements were reſtored. Minorca and Belleiſle reverted to their former poſſeſſors. The fortifications and harbour of Dunkirk were to be demoliſhed, agreeable to the ſtipulations of former treaties. The claim of indemnification, formerly made by France for the captures made by the Engliſh before the declaration of war, was withdrawn.

Soon after the cloſe of ſo fierce and general a war, Europe exhibited a reviving proſpect to the philoſophical obſerver. He ſaw the rage of conqueſt every where ſubdued, and the ſpirit of uſeful labour and improvement taking place of the ſpirit of rapacity and devaſtation. The late ſcenes of blood were quickly covered with the ſweeteſt verdure, and the towns and villages which had been deſtroyed, roſe more beautiful from their ruins. Nations, tired of hoſtile ſtrife, began now to confine their efforts to objects of nobler emulation, to the arts of utility and happineſs,—to the purſuits of induſtry, genius, and ſcience. Even the moſt ambitious among their ſovereigns appeared to be at length convinced, that extent of dominion was too dearly purchaſed by the lives of thouſands; that ſanguinary glory was equally pernicious and contemptible, and that more wealth and real power could be derived from the honeſt endeavours of their ſubjects to enrich themſelves, than from making uſe of their ſervile aſſiſtance to plunder, deſtroy, or enſlave others. In ſhort, a calm and benign peace ſeemed brooding over this quarter of the globe; and the internal ſtate of every country afforded the beſt pledge for the continuance and increaſe of its bleſſings.

Ruſſia, though at a diſtance from the theatre of war, had felt its havoc in the moſt ſenſible and tender part,—the decreaſe of inhabitants. In that vaſt empire, to the extent of which its population is ſo extremely diſproportioned, the loſs of a man cannot be compenſated by military laurels. The human race is almoſt in perpetual danger of becoming extinct in the northern provinces, from the ſeverity of the climate and the barrenneſs of the ſoil, without being expoſed to the more deſtructive ravages of the ſword; and, in the ſouthern diſtricts, if large armies are more eaſily collected, and maintained without much difficulty at home, on account of the cheapneſs of proviſions; the ſtate of the revenue was at that time but ill adapted to the expences which muſt have attended the employment of troops in diſtant countries. The particular ſituation of the empreſs, alſo, concurred with theſe motives of national policy to render her averſe to any precipitate quarrels with her neighbours. She could not look upon herſelf as ſufficiently ſecured from domeſtic danger to provoke the attacks of a foreign enemy. It was neceſſary, for ſome time at leaſt, that ſhe ſhould confine her views ſolely to her own ſafety, that ſhe ſhould collect, within itſelf, all the force of the empire, in order to oppoſe it to the deſigns of the many malcontents with whom Ruſſia was known to abound, and who, though not attached to the intereſt of the late czar, and little inclined to revenge his fate, would have found both inducement and opportunity for raiſing troubles, and attempting new changes. Very plauſible pretences for ſuch attempts exiſted ſince the reign of Peter I. who, while he aimed at improving and ſtrengthening his kingdom, left in it, at the ſame time, the ſeeds of civil wars and revolutions.

The attention of Denmark and Sweden was not leſs engroſſed by objects of domeſtic concern. His Daniſh majeſty, Frederic V. having amicably ſettled with Ruſſia whatever was in diſpute concerning the duchy of Holſtein, reſumed his former meaſures for promoting the happineſs of his people, and converting, to the moſt profitable account, the opportunities of a friendly intercourſe with the nations round him. His death, which happened about three years after the peace, did not produce any change in the ſyſtem of adminiſtration. Chriſtian VII. ſeemed deſirous of treading in his father's footſteps, or rather of improving upon his pacific and beneficent plans. All his councils were directed to the encouragement of agriculture, to the relief of the peaſantry from ſome remaining oppreſſions, and to the moſt effectual means of inviting foreign merchants to his ports, as well as of giving new life and vigour to the commerce of his own ſubjects. His marriage to the princeſs Caroline Matilda of England was another very pleaſing circumſtance at that time, though it ended unfortunately, through the intrigues, as it was ſaid, of his ſtepmother, the queen dowager, and perhaps through his own imbecility of underſtanding.

The genius of the Swedes had too long been turned to arms. Dazzled by the ſplendor of occaſional but extraordinary ſucceſs, they had fancied themſelves born only to conquer, and to regulate the deſtinies of empires. The hope of plunder had been united to the love of glory; it required the experience of a century and a half to undeceive them in their falſe notions of grandeur, and to convince them that their natural poverty was not to be remedied by martial exploits. The exhauſted ſtate of the kingdom, the loſs of former conqueſts, the elevation of Ruſſia, and the near example of Daniſh induſtry, made them ſenſible that it was time for them to lay aſide the military character, and to betake themſelves to the uſeful arts. Peace was become the wiſh of the whole nation; and their king favoured this rational propenſity, not only from a juſt perception of its advantages, but from being conſtantly haraſſed by factions in the ſenate, and by the jealouſy or intrigues of his enemies at home, without ſeeking abroad for others to contend with.

With regard to the King of Pruſſia, after having exhauſted all the reſources of his genius in the courſe of a long and dreadful ſtruggle, toward the cloſe of which his ſalvation was entirely owing to an incident beyond the reach not only of human foreſight, but of hope itſelf, it was not probable that he would be very forward again to commit his affairs, ſo miraculouſly preſerved, to the chances of war. The empreſs queen, on her part, had as little temptation to diſturb the general tranquillity. Since ſhe failed to reduce Sileſia, or even to recover the ſmalleſt particle of her loſſes, with ſuch an exertion of her own ſtrength, and with ſuch an alliance as was never ſeen united before, ſhe muſt have been ſatisfied of the folly and madneſs of renewing the calamities, with which Germany had, for the laſt ſix years, been unceaſingly afflicted. To this conſideration was alſo added, her natural deſire to ſettle her numerous offspring, and particularly to ſecure the archduke Joſeph's ſucceſſion to the imperial diadem, by having him previouſly elected king of the Romans. She herſelf had experienced the difficulty of eſtabliſhing the claims of birth, even under the ſanction of aſſenting powers, at the death of her father, who left no male iſſue. It was therefore neceſſary to behave in the moſt conciliating manner towards the electors, in order to prevent any oppoſition to the choice of her ſon. In conſequence of her prudent policy, he was crowned at Frankfort, the 3d of April, 1764; and, the year after, on the death of his father, he aſcended the throne with as little noiſe and buſtle as if it had been hereditary.

In this ſurvey of the ſituation of the late belligerent powers at the cloſe of the war, it would be unneceſſary to make any remarks on France and Spain, as the diſaſters they had ſuffered, and their motives for being ſo earneſt to conclude the treaty of peace, have been already explained, were it not that the prevalence of interior diſſentions, chiefly in the former, afforded ſome farther pledges of her external inoffenſiveneſs. The King of France had hardly put an end to foreign hoſtilities, when he was engaged in a conteſt almoſt as perplexing with his own parliaments. Theſe parliaments, according to their original conſtitution, were ſupreme courts of juſtice, and had no ſhare in the other concerns of government. But ſince the meetings of the ſtates had been laid aſide, the parliaments became in fact the only guardians of the rights of the nation; and though they did not deny that the whole legiſlative as well as executive power reſided in the king, yet they contrived a method of controlling the crown in the exerciſe of both, and of interpoſing their authority in every matter of religion, of civil police, of revenue, and even, in ſome inſtances, in matters of ſtate. As no edict, or arret, had the force of law till it was regiſtered by them, they gradually aſſumed the liberty of ſuſpending the regiſtry for ſome time, and of remonſtrating againſt the meaſure, if unpopular or oppreſſive. The court often found it expedient to act with ſeeming condeſcenſion, till the parliaments, encouraged by ſucceſs, carried their reſiſtance to greater lengths. Soon after the peace, the king iſſued an edict for the continuance of ſome taxes which were to have ended with the war, and of impoſing new ones. Some regulations were made in like manner for enabling the crown to redeem its debts at twenty years purchaſe of their then produce, which was very low. The parliaments conſidered thoſe edicts as burthens on the people, and as violations of the public faith. Without any previous concert, they all reſolved on the moſt ſtrenuous oppoſition, and determined to take this opportunity, not only of fruſtrating the immediate plans of deſpotiſm, but of ſetting up their own authority at ſo high a point, as to prevent all abuſes of the ſame kind in future. They peremptorily refuſed to regiſter the edicts, and prepared remonſtrances, in which the language of fair argument derived irreſiſtible force and animation from the ſpirit of manly freedom. The court was alarmed, yet did not tamely give up the point. Governors were ſent down into the ſeveral provinces, with orders, in the king's name, to enforce obedience. But the parliaments, rather provoked than terrified by ſuch proceedings, iſſued arrets for ſeizing and impriſoning any of the governors who dared to become the inſtruments of arbitrary power. In ſhort, a civil convulſion ſeemed almoſt inevitable, when the king thought proper to compromiſe the diſpute; and from that moment it was evident, that any raſh attempt of Louis to embroil himſelf with his neighbours, and conſequently to increaſe the burthens of his ſubjects, would endanger the overthrow of the French monarchy.

As to Spain, the wounds ſhe had lately received were ſo deep and ſo dangerous, that a great deal of time and the utmoſt care, were neceſſary to heal them. She could not want any freſh proofs of the ruinous conſequences of pride, treachery, and precipitance. As ſhe alſo remained under the influence of French councils, there was the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe, that as long as France found it her intereſt to continue punctual in the obſervance of the peace, Spain would not take any ſtep to violate it. Thus Great Britain had little to apprehend from the turbulence of the German powers, or from the intrigues of the houſe of Bourbon, eſpecially as her moderate demands, and her generous conceſſions in the late treaty, could have left no juſt cauſes of irritation to rankle in the breaſts of her humbled enemies.

But, while the aſpect of the great political bodies of Europe were ſo perfectly favourable towards each other, the Britiſh government never felt greater occaſion, than in the midſt of this ſurrounding tranquillity, for the exertions of its vigilance and wiſdom, to extinguiſh the flames of a new war, which ſuddenly burſt out from the aſhes of the former, with moſt of the ſavage nations in America; to regulate the diſtracted affairs of the Eaſt Indies; and, above all, to defeat at home the deſigns of the factious, who, as if grown deſperate by frequent diſappointments, ſeemed reſolved either to undermine, or to batter down, all the pillars of the ſtate, even though they themſelves ſhould be cruſhed in its ruins.

The firſt event to be noticed in a work of this nature, is the renewal of hoſtilities on the part of the ſavages in America. In order now to lead the reader to a proper idea of the events of that ſavage war, it will be neceſſary to trace out the cauſes, which probably gave riſe to it; and to explain the meaſures which were cautiouſly, though at firſt unſucceſsfully, deſigned to prevent any ſuch diſturbances.

By the fourth and ſeventh articles of the treaty of peace, Canada was ceded to Great Britain in its utmoſt extent. This ſtretched the northern part of her poſſeſſions on the continent of America from one ocean to the other. The ceſſion of Louiſiana to the Miſſiſſippi, and of the Spaniſh Florida on both ſeas made her American empire complete. No frontiers could be more diſtinctly defined, nor more perfectly ſecured. The only care which ſeemed left for Great Britain, was to render theſe acquiſitions as beneficial in traffic, as they were extenſive in territory. An immenſe waſte of uncultivated country was evidently no great object to a mercantile nation for the preſent; but it was a conſiderable one in hope, becauſe it contained an infinite variety of ſoils, climates, and ſituations, and thereby afforded ample materials for the exertion of wealth and ſkill in its improvement to all the purpoſes of trade. Theſe exertions were not likely to be wanting, or to be ineffectual. Independently of national motives, the adminiſtration in England had a particular intereſt in promoting every plan that could increaſe the value of thoſe conqueſts, and juſtify the choice which had been made of them in ſettling the terms of the late treaty. In order to come at an exact knowledge of every thing neceſſary for this purpoſe, it was judged expedient to divide the new acquiſitions on the continent into three ſeparate and independent governments.

The firſt and moſt northerly of theſe diviſions was called the government of Quebec, the limitation of which within narrower boundaries than thoſe formerly aſſigned by the French to Canada, excited ſome ſurpriſe and no inconſiderable clamour at home. The ſouthern diviſions were more eaſily adjuſted, as the two provinces of Eaſt and Weſt Florida were regularly parted by the river Apalachicola. The government of Quebec was given to the honorable James Murray, that of Eaſt Florida to James Grant, Eſq. and that of Weſt Florida to George Johnſtone, Eſq. all of them officers who had eminently diſtinguiſhed themſelves in making thoſe conqueſts, the ſecurity and improvement of which were now entruſted to their care. The coaſt of Labrador, from the river St. John to Hudſon's Streights, and all the neighbouring iſlands in the gulf of St. Lawrence, were very judiciouſly ſubjected to the authority and inſpection of the governor of Newfoundland, their value depending wholly on the fiſhery, which was the ſtrongeſt reaſon for keeping the entire extent of the adjacent coaſt under a ſingle direction.

The iſlands of St. John and Cape Breton were annexed, as their ſituation required, to Nova Scotia.

This diſtribution of the newly-acquired territories was no ſooner announced to the public, in a royal proclamation of the 7th of October, 1763, than a violent outcry was raiſed againſt it, and on plauſible grounds, as much the largeſt, and, perhaps, the moſt improveable part, of the late conqueſts was not included within the boundaries of any of the propoſed governments. Moſt people were indeed aſtoniſhed to find, that the environs of the great lakes, the fine countries on the whole courſe of the Ohio and Ouabache, and almoſt all that tract of Louiſiana which lies on the hither branch of the Miſſiſſippi, were left out, and, as it were, diſregarded in this boaſted plan of territorial regulation. But the miniſtry had many reaſons for ſuch an apparent omiſſion. A conſideration of the Indians carried with it no ſmall weight, becauſe it might have given a ſenſible alarm to that people if they had ſeen their whole country formally cantoned out into regular eſtabliſhments. It was in this idea that the proclamation ſtrictly forbade any purchaſes or ſettlements beyond the limits of the three before mentioned governments, or any extenſion of the old colonies beyond the heads of the rivers which fall from the weſtward into the Atlantic ocean; reſerving expreſsly all the territories behind as an hunting ground for the Indians. Another reaſon, probably, why no diſpoſition had been made of the inland country was, that the charters of many of the old colonies gave them no other bounds to the weſtward but the South Sea; and conſequently comprehended almoſt all the conquered diſtricts. Thoſe charters were given when the continent was little known and little valued. To admit the validity of ſuch grants in their fulleſt extent would have been attended with the moſt abſurd conſequences. But where the weſtern boundary ought to be ſettled, was a matter which admitted of great diſpute; and, to all appearance, could only be finally adjuſted by the interpoſition of parliament. Until theſe difficulties could be removed, however valuable the unoccupied tracts of country were deemed, it would have been imprudent in government to parcel them out, or to encourage any premature ſettlements there.

That the miniſtry were influenced by ſome ſuch motives, and were not guilty of any blameable neglect, is evident from their earneſt attention to the improvement of thoſe parts which they could perfectly command. In order to invite ſoldiers and ſeamen who had ſerved in the American war, to ſettle in the country they had conquered, lots of land were offered to them as the rewards of their ſervices, and in proportion to the rank they held in the army or navy. Every field-officer was to have five thouſand acres, every captain three thouſand, every ſubaltern two thouſand, every non-commiſſioned officer two hundred, and every private ſoldier or ſeaman fifty. But as no encouragement unconnected with the idea of liberty could be flattering to Engliſhmen; a civil eſtabliſhment, comprehending a popular repreſentative, agreeable to the plan of the royal governments in the other colonies, was directed as ſoon as the circumſtances of theſe countries would admit of it; and in the mean time, ſuch regulations were provided as held out to every individual the full enjoyment and benefit of the laws of England. And, laſtly, that nothing might be wanting for the ſecurity of new ſettlers, and for aweing as well as protecting the Indian nations, a regular military eſtabliſhment alſo was formed there, conſiſting of ten thouſand men, divided into twenty battalions, part of whom were to be employed in the defence of the Weſt-India iſlands.

But though the moſt prudent ſteps were thus taken, to avoid giving offence to the Indians on the one hand, and to intimidate their ferocity on the other, they ſuddenly fell upon the frontiers of the moſt valuable ſettlements, and upon all the out-lying forts, with ſuch an unanimity in the deſign, and ſuch perſevering fury in the attack, as had not been experienced even in the hotteſt times of any former war. Various cauſes concurred to urge them on to this very unexpected violence. When they ſaw the French power annihilated, they began to imagine that they ought to have made greater and earlier efforts in favour of their old friends. They had not been for a long time ſo jealous of them as they were of the Engliſh. The French ſeemed more intent on trade than ſettlement. Finding themſelves infinitely weaker than the Engliſh, they ſupplied, as well as they could, the place of ſtrength by policy, and paid a much more flattering and ſyſtematical attention to the Indians than the Engliſh had ever done. The latter treated the ſavages at all times with too much indifference, but more eſpecially ſince the cloſe of the French war. The uſual preſents were omitted. Contrary to the intentions of government, ſettlements were attempted beyond the juſt limits. Purchaſes indeed were made of the lands, and ſometimes fair ones. But the Indians, conſcious of the weakneſs and facility of their own character in all dealings, have often conſidered a purchaſe and an invaſion as nearly the ſame thing. They expect, that the reaſon of enlightened nations will rather aid than take advantage of their imbecility, and will not ſuffer them, even when they are willing, to do thoſe things which muſt end in their ruin when done. They were alſo alarmed at ſeeing all the places of ſtrength in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh troops, and a chain of forts drawn round the beſt hunting country they had left, which was an object of the more ſerious concern to them, as ſuch ground became every day more ſcarce, not only from the gradual extending of the Britiſh ſettlements, but from their own bad œconomy of this ſingle reſource of ſavage life. It was therefore very natural for them to look upon every garriſon as the firſt advances of an encroaching colony; and, in the midſt of all theſe fears, a report having been ſpread amongſt them, that a ſcheme was formed for their entire extirpation, they did not heſitate a moment longer to take up the hatchet.

The Delawars and Shawaneſe, who, as the cultivation of Pennſylvania advanced, had retired, and ſettled upon the Ohio, took the lead in this renewal of hoſtilities. They had been very zealous in the French intereſt, and had, through practice and habit, acquired ſome reputation in arms. Having obſerved that the ſavages never became conſiderable but by an incorporation of ſeveral of their nations into one, they confederated with the other tribes whom they found ſcattered along the Ohio, behind the Allegany mountains, and thus formed a powerful and well compacted body. They had even the addreſs to engage the Senecas, one of the five nations to whom they themſelves had been formerly tributaries, to eſpouſe their quarrel, and to join in the propoſed attack on the Britiſh forts and colonies. Theſe muſt have been in the moſt imminent danger, had all the ſavages on the continent been unanimous on this occaſion; but the moſt temperate and conſiderable part of the five nations were kept out of the war by the indefatigable pains of Sir William Johnſon; and the Cherokees had ſtill ſuch an impreſſion of their late chaſtiſement by Colonel Grant, that they were afraid to provoke a repetition of the like ſeverities.

When the Indians had reſolved to take the field, their ſcheme was to make a general and ſudden attack upon the Britiſh back-ſettlers, while they were getting in their harveſt; and after having murdered all they could meet with, to deſtroy the crops, that no ſubſiſtence might remain for thoſe who eſcaped. The precipitancy of ſome of their warriors defeated in part the more methodical and conſiderate miſchief of the reſt; and by giving an early alarm, afforded ſome of the planters an opportunity of eſcaping with their effects. Great numbers were, nevertheleſs, cut off, the crops ruined, and their houſes burned, with all that detail of ſavage cruelty, with which an Indian war is always carried on, and which it is diſguſting to relate. The ſettlements of all the frontier country for twenty miles inwards were deſerted; and five hundred poor families, who had the good fortune to eſcape the general maſſacre, fled to the woods of Virginia, where they could find neither ſhelter nor ſubſiſtence. Of an hundred and twenty itinerant merchants, who, on the ſecurity of the general peace, were trading in the Indian country, only two or three got clear with their lives. The loſs of their property and effects, which were valued at ſome hundred thouſand pounds, was ſeverely felt by ſome of the chief towns in America. The ſavages alſo fell in with and cut off the greater part of a convoy of one hundred of the ſettlers and others, who were eſcorting a large quantity of proviſions and goods to Detroit. But what was of greater military importance, they made themſelves maſters of all the ſmall poſts between Pittſburgh and Lake Erie, giving out to the garriſon of every poſt, that they had deſtroyed that which was adjoining, and exceedingly exaggerating their own numbers. Three poſts of conſiderable ſtrength ſtill remained to check their incurſions, Detroit, Niagara, and fort Pitt; and the Indians, well knowing, that but a few links of their chain were broken, whilſt theſe fortreſſes held out, reiterated againſt them all their attempts of force and policy.

General Amherſt, the commander in chief, ſenſible of the danger to which all the Britiſh conqueſts were expoſed by the ſudden breaking out of this war, ſent off detachments as early as poſſible to ſtrengthen the chief poſts. Detroit was the firſt, where one of the detachments arrived on the 29th of July, and where a plan was immediately formed by Captain Dalyel, who had the command of theſe troops, for ſurpriſing the ſavages in their camp, which was about three miles from the fort. The captain ſet out at the head of two hundred and forty five men, between two and three o'clock in the morning, with all the precautions poſſible. He was alſo attended with two armed boats, to co-operate with the land-forces, whoſe march lay along the bank of the lake, or to cover, if neceſſary, their retreat. They were not far from the Indian quarters when they received a briſk fire in their front. Inſtantly after it began upon their rear. They were attacked on all ſides, and their commander fell early in the action. The darkneſs of the night hindered their ſeeing the enemy; and the whole party was on the point of falling into irremediable confuſion. The Indians had been appriſed of their deſign, and had, with their uſually ſubtlety, poſted themſelves in ſuch a manner behind hedges, and in huts on each ſide of the road, as gave them a conſiderable advantage over the expoſed aſſailants. In this emergency Captain Grant, on whom the command of the Britiſh troops devolved, ſaw that nothing was left but a retreat. He alſo ſaw that even this could be effected only by firſt making a ſpirited attack on the enemy's poſts, which was done with great order and reſolution. The Indians were driven from the road, and at length repulſed every where. Captain Grant then made good his retreat to the boats, which carried off the wounded, and the reſt of the detachment regained the fort, though with great difficulty, and conſiderable loſs, as very near a third of their number fell in the action.

The ill ſucceſs of this attempt checked all farther offenſive meaſures on the part of the garriſon; they very properly confined themſelves to a vigilant defence, which alone could baffle the artifices of the enemy. As the latter was unprovided with cannon, and ignorant alſo of the art of beſieging or reducing fortified places, they could not improve the advantage they had gained; but were obliged to relinquiſh all deſigns upon the fort as wholly deſperate. Their failure here did not, however, diſconcert their plan of operations in another quarter, where they acted with much greater vigour and perſeverance. It is indeed aſtoniſhing, that thoſe ſavages, though of ſo many different nations, and ſeparated by ſuch immenſe tracts of impracticable country, preſerved an uncommon degree of concert and connection in all their enterpriſes. At the very time when one party of them was thus foiled in their ſtratagems near Detroit, another more numerous and formidable body inveſted fort Pitt, at the diſtance of more than two hundred miles from the former place.

It is remarkable that the building of fort Pitt, which was originally called fort du Queſne, by the French, had given the immediate occaſion to the late war; and was now likely to become the main object of another very dreadful conteſt. Its works had never been well finiſhed, and they had ſuffered conſiderably by an inundation from the rivers which cover it. Captain Ecuyer, who commanded there, though weak in the number of his troops, without engines, and ill ſupplied with every neceſſary for ſuſtaining a ſiege, took all the precautions which art and judgment could ſuggeſt for the repair of the place, and for repulſing the enemy. His men ſeconded his efforts with reſolution. There was no trifling with the danger, when they perceived the determined purpoſes of barbarians, whom it was ſo difficult to reſiſt, and ſo terrible to ſubmit to. Theſe ſavages, being deſtitute of all means of making regular approaches, took poſt under the banks of the rivers, cloſe to the fort, and burying themſelves in holes for days together, poured in an inceſſant ſtorm of muſketry and fire arrows. They hoped to reduce the garriſon by keeping it perpetually harraſſed; and if they failed in this method, they truſted to make themſelves maſters of the place by famine.

In the mean time General Amherſt, fully perſuaded, from the importance and ſituation of fort Pitt, that it would become one of the principal objects of ſavage fury, ordered Colonel Bouquet to march to its relief, with a large quantity of proviſions and ſtores under a ſtrong eſcort. The Indians, who had their ſcouts all over the country, were no ſooner informed of the march of the Engliſh troops, than they abandoned the blockade of the fort, in order to ſeize the firſt favourable opportunity of cutting off the intended reinforcement. Colonel Bouquet, having advanced as far as Ligonier, on the extreme verge of the Britiſh ſettlements, without receiving any intelligence of the poſition or motions of the enemy, very prudently reſolved to diſencumber himſelf there of the waggons and of a conſiderable part of the ammunition and proviſions; while he proceeded with the troops, and about three hundred and forty horſes loaded with flour and ſuch other ſupplies as were abſolutely neceſſary. Being thus diſburthened, the Engliſh army entered a rough and mountainous country. Before them lay a dangerous defile, called Turtle-creek, ſeveral miles in length, commanded the whole way by high and craggy hills. It was therefore deemed moſt adviſable not to attempt paſſing this defile but by night, in order, if poſſible, to elude the vigilance of their alert enemies.

While the colonel was making the neceſſary arrangements, and juſt as his men were preparing to refreſh themſelves, after a fatiguing march of ſeventeen miles, the Indians made a ſudden attack on his advanced guard, which being ſpeedily and firmly ſupported, the enemy was beat off, and even purſued to a conſiderable diſtance. But the flight of theſe barbarians muſt often be regarded as one of their military manœuvres, rather than a dereliction of the field. The moment the purſuit ceaſed, they returned to the charge with redoubled vigour; and being ſupported by parties which lay in ambuſh in high and woody grounds flanking the army, they galled it with an obſtinate fire. The whole line was obliged to advance, in order to diſlodge them from thoſe poſts. This movement ſucceeded at firſt, but did not produce any deciſive advantage; for as ſoon as the ſavages were driven from one eminence they immediately occupied another; till, by conſtant

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reinforcements, they were able to ſurround the whole detachment, and to attack the convoy in the rear, which forced the main body to fall back for its protection. The action now became general; and though the ſavages poured down on every ſide in conſiderable numbers, and fought with unuſual regularity and ſpirit, the ſuperior ſkill and ſteady courage of the Britiſh troops at length prevailed. After an engagement which was continued without any intermiſſion from one o'clock in the afternoon till night, the ſavages were repulſed and driven from all their poſts with fixed bayonets. Above ſixty of the Engliſh were killed or wounded; and as the ground on which they ſtood was not ill adapted to an encampment, the convoy and the wounded were placed in the centre, and the troops, forming a circle, encompaſſed the whole. In this manner, and with little repoſe, they paſſed an anxious night, obliged to the ſtricteſt vigilance by a daring enemy, who, notwithſtanding this firſt check, ſeemed to wait only for the morning to complete their deſtruction.

Thoſe who have only experienced the ſeverities and dangers of a campaign in Europe, can ſcarcely form an idea of what is to be done and endured in an American war. To act in a country cultivated and inhabited, where roads are made, magazines are eſtabliſhed, and hoſpitals provided; where there are ſtrong towns to afford refuge in caſe of misfortune; or, at the worſt, a generous enemy to yield to, from whom no conſolation but the honour of victory can be wanting; this may be conſidered as the exerciſe of an active and adventurous mind, rather than a rigid conteſt for mutual deſtruction; and as a diſpute between rivals for glory, rather than a ſtruggle between ſanguinary enemies. But in an American campaign, every object is terrible; the face of the country, the climate, the enemy. There is no refreſhment for the healthy, no relief for the ſick or wounded. A vaſt inhoſpitable deſert, unſafe and treacherous, extends on every ſide. Victories are not deciſive, but defeats are ruinous; and ſimple death is the leaſt misfortune that can befal a ſoldier. This forms a ſervice truly critical, in which all the firmneſs of the body and mind is put to the ſevereſt trial; and all the exertions of courage, perſeverance, and addreſs, are called forth by the unceaſing perils of every moment. Some remarks of this kind ſeemed neceſſary, to place in a proper light the dreadful ſituation and unparallelled efforts of the brave detachment under Colonel Bouquet.

At the firſt dawn of light, in the morning of the 6th of Auguſt, the ſavages began to declare themſelves, all round the camp, at the diſtance of about five hundred yards; and emitted the moſt horrid ſhouts and yells, in order to intimidate by an oſtentation of their numbers and their ferocity. After this alarming preparative, they ruſhed on with the utmoſt fury, and, under the favour of an inceſſant fire, made ſeveral bold efforts to penetrate into the camp. They were repulſed in every attempt, but by no means diſcouraged from new ones. The Britiſh troops, continually victorious, were continually in danger. They were beſides very much fatigued with a long march, and the long action of the preceding day; and they were diſtreſſed to the laſt degree by a total want of water, far more intolerable than the enemy's fire. Their ſituation was extremely perplexing; tied to their convoy, they could not loſe ſight of it for a moment, without expoſing not only that intereſting object, but their wounded men to fall a prey to mercileſs barbarians; and to move, or purſue their march was impracticable, as many of their horſes were loſt, and many of the drivers, ſtupified by their fears, hid themſelves in the buſhes, and were incapable of hearing or obeying orders. In this manner beſieged rather than engaged; attacked without interruption, and without deciſion; able neither to advance, nor to retreat; they ſaw before them the melancholy proſpect of crumbling away by degrees, and of periſhing without revenge, without honour, in the midſt of thoſe dreadful deſerts. The fate of Braddock and of his army came ruſhing on their minds; but theſe gallant troops had a very different commander.

Colonel Bouquet, ſeeing that all depended on bringing the ſavages to a cloſe engagement, and that when preſſed, they always flew off in order to rally with the greater effect, formed a plan for giving new ſtrength to their audacity by making diſpoſitions for an apparent retreat. As his troops ſtill retained the circular order in which they had been poſted the preceding night, he directed two of the companies, who were in the moſt advanced ſituations, to fall within the circle; the other forces on the right and left opening their files, and then cloſing up the vacant ſpace, as if they meant to cover the retreat; while another company of light infantry, and one of grenadiers were ordered to ſupport the two firſt in the real attack which was intended. The ſavages gave entirely into the ſnare; imagining that thoſe movements were ſure indications of an attempt to eſcape, they ruſhed from the woods which had hitherto covered them, and hurrying on headlong with the utmoſt intrepidity, galled the Engliſh with their heavy fire. But at the very inſtant when they thought the victory certain, and the camp taken, the two firſt companies made a ſudden turn, and ſallying out from a part of the hill which was not obſerved, fell furiouſly upon their right flank. The barbarians made for a little time a deſperate ſtand, returning the firſt fire with great reſolution; but they fled at the ſecond volley. As they turned their backs, the other two companies preſented themſelves in their front, and totally routed them with great ſlaughter. The other bodies of the ſavages, who had been kept in awe during the engagement by the reſt of the Britiſh troops, were terrified by the fate of their companions, and abandoned the adjacent woods. The victorious army, notwithſtanding this advantage, had ſuffered ſo much, and had loſt ſo many horſes, that, before they could move, they were obliged to deſtroy the greateſt part of their flour and proviſions, and conſequently to give up one of the principal objects of their expedition. About two miles farther on, at a place called Buſhy Run, the ſavages made another attack upon them, but leſs vigorouſly than before; after which they ſuffered little moleſtation during the reſt of their march, but arrived ſafe at Fort Pitt in four days from the action. The loſs ſuſtained by the Engliſh in theſe engagements was fifty killed, and about ſixty wounded: that of the ſavages was not much greater, owing to their manner of fighting; but their tribes being very thin, they thought it an almoſt irreparable havoc, particularly as ſome of their braveſt leaders had fallen upon the occaſion.

Though the two forts of Detroit and Pitt were thus ſecured by timely reinforcements, the Indians in other parts of the country were not diſcouraged from farther attempts. Niagara was a place equally worthy of their regard, and they endeavoured to diſtreſs it by every method, which the meanneſs of their ſkill in attacking fortified places would permit. They chiefly directed their attention to the convoys, hoping to ſtarve what they could not otherwiſe reduce. The vaſt diſtance of the forts from each other, and of all of them from the ſettled countries, favoured their deſign. Near the carrying place of Niagara, a body of five hundred of them ſurrounded an eſcort, conſiſting of two companies of Engliſh ſoldiers, on the 14th of September, and killed ſeventy-two of the privates, beſides officers and ſerjeants. On the lake Erie, with a crowd of canoes, they attacked a ſchooner which was conveying proviſions to fort Detroit; but here they were not ſo ſucceſsful. Though in this ſavage navy they had employed near four hundred men, and had but a ſingle veſſel to engage, they were repulſed, after a hot engagement, with great loſs. The ſchooner was to them as a fortification on the water; and they knew not how to make their approaches or onſets, with the ſame advantage as upon the convoys by land.

While the war was thus raging in the remoter parts of the colony, Sir William Johnſon applied himſelf with indefatigable zeal to ſecure the attachment of ſuch of the Indians as had not yet commenced hoſtilities. For this purpoſe he opened conferences at the German Flats, in the beginning of September, with the Six Nations and ſome others, who appeared deſirous of continuing in quiet dependance upon England. They could not, however, prevent the Senecas and their allies from continuing their depredations and maſſacres. Vigorous meaſures were therefore adopted to reduce theſe refractory ſavages to reaſon; and it was not till they ſeverely felt the ſcourge of powerful vengeance, that the Senecas were induced to ſolicit peace. In the treaty concluded between them and Sir William Johnſon, all occaſions of future diſpute were removed; their boundaries were preciſely aſcertained; their paſt tranſgreſſions were forgiven; and in conſequence of their ſolemn engagements never more to make war upon the Engliſh, or to ſuffer any of their people to commit any acts of violence on the perſons or properties of any of his Britannic majeſty's ſubjects, they were not only admitted once more into the covenant chain of friendſhip, but were to be indulged with a free, fair, and open, trade.

This treaty took place in April, 1764; and one of the moſt conſiderable ſuccours being thereby withdrawn from the other hoſtile tribes, it was not likely that they would hold out much longer. Colonel Bradſtreet was ordered to advance with a large body of men, from Niagara to the countries of thoſe ſavages; and Colonel Bouquet ſet out with another body for the ſame purpoſe from Canada, intending to carry the war through their moſt remote habitations, if they did not ſubmit in time. Such appearances of determined reſolution produced the proper effects: for when Colonel Bradſtreet arrived at Preſque Iſle in Auguſt, deputies from the ſeveral nations waited upon him, and engaged by ſolemn treaty to deliver up all the priſoners in their hands, and to renounce all claim to the poſts and forts poſſeſſed in their country by the Engliſh, who ſhould be at liberty to erect as many more as might be thought neceſſary for the ſecurity of their trade, with as much land to each fort, for raiſing proviſions, as a cannon ſhot can fly over. Some other conditions were added, tending to inſpire the barbarians with a ſenſe of humanity and juſtice, and to give them ſome idea of the Engliſh government. Colonel Bouquet was equally ſucceſsful, though the ſavages, againſt whom he marched, were by far the moſt perfidious and intractable. He penetrated into the very heart of their country about the latter end of October; and when they found that he was neither to be checked by any ſhow of reſiſtance, nor amuſed by deluſive promiſes, they agreed to treat in good earneſt, faithfully giving up all their priſoners, even the children born of white women, admitting detachments of his army into their towns, giving ſome of their chiefs as hoſtages, and appointing deputies finally to ſettle the terms of peace with Sir William Johnſon. Theſe wiſe and reſolute meaſures reſtored ſecurity to the interior coloniſts, or back ſettlers in North America.

But while the Britiſh government was thus taking the moſt effectual ſteps to ſecure the peaceable ſubmiſſion of the American ſavages, a ſpirit of much more dangerous reſiſtance began to appear among its civilized ſubjects on the ſame continent. This was firſt excited by ſome attempts made to break off all kind of commercial intercourſe between the Britiſh colonies, and the French and Spaniſh ſettlements. The trade was certainly illicit; but as many parts of it were highly beneficial to thoſe who carried it on, and ultimately to the mother countries in Europe, every reſtraint ought to have been impoſed with the utmoſt delicacy and caution. The orders ſent out by the Engliſh miniſtry, after the concluſion of the peace, to the naval commanders in the Weſt Indies, were too rigorous, or, at leaſt, too liable to abuſe. Under the idea of putting a total ſtop to ſmuggling, ſhips of war were converted into guarda-coſtas, and captains of the navy were obliged to take the uſual cuſtom-houſe oaths, and to act in the capacity of revenue officers. By theſe means, the nature of their own exalted character was debaſed, and that irregular vivacity of theirs, and contempt of common forms, which had been ſo lately and with ſuch advantage exerted againſt the enemy, were now inconſiderately played off upon the ſubject. Unacquainted with all thoſe caſes in which ſhips are or are not liable to ſeizure, to penalty, or detention, they hurt the intereſts of trade, without promoting in any reſpect the intentions of the treaſury.

As we propoſe, however, to begin our next volume with a regular detail of the *American war*, we ſhall conclude this with ſuch matters as may prevent us hereafter from interrupting the thread of that narrative.

By accounts received from the Weſt-Indies in the month of June, it appeared that, in conſequence of an order from Don Remires, the Spaniſh governor of Jucathan, the Engliſh logwood cutters had been not only diſturbed in their buſineſs, contrary to the laſt treaty, but ordered to remove ſuddenly from their uſual places of ſettlement, on pretence of their having nothing to prove their being ſubjects to his Britannic majeſty; and, granting they were, they had roved too freely about the country, gathering the fruits of it, as if it belonged to them. The ſufferers joined in a petition to the governor of Jamaica, under whoſe protection they were, repreſenting the diſtreſſes to which they were reduced by ſuch captious and arbitrary proceedings. Governor Lyttleton having ſatisfied himſelf of the truth of the complaint, ſent off diſpatches to England, in conſequence of which the Earl of Rochford, then ambaſſador at the court of Madrid, was ordered to make ſerious remonſtrances to that court on the ſubject. The reply of the Spaniſh miniſtry was, that they had not received any advice from the governor of Jucatan relative to this affair; but that the Catholic king had certainly given him poſitive orders to abide by and obſerve the ſeventeenth article of the definitive treaty; and that his majeſty would not approve of the conduct of any of his governors, miniſters, or ſubjects, who acted in contravention to it. But this anſwer not being deemed ſufficiently explicit or ſatisfactory by ſome of the Engliſh miniſtry, the ambaſſador was directed to renew the remonſtrances; upon which orders were diſpatched by his Catholic majeſty to Remires, cenſuring his behaviour towards the logwood cutters; expreſſing a deſire of giving the King of England the greateſt proofs of friendſhip, and of preſerving peace with the Britiſh nation; and commanding Remires to re-eſtabliſh the logwood cutters in the ſeveral places from which he had obliged them to retire, and to let them know that they might return to their occupation, without being diſquieted under any pretence whatſoever.

In another inſtance, which occurred about the ſame time, the Spaniſh government ſhewed an equal readineſs to remove any juſt cauſe of complaint on the part of Great Britain. The commodore of ſome Spaniſh xebecs, that were cruiſing againſt the Algerines in the Mediterranean, attacked an Engliſh merchant ſhip, commanded by one Captain Sybrand, who immediately hoiſted Engliſh colours, but having no guns on-board, cried out for mercy. This, however, had no effect on the Spaniards, who continued their fire, till the Engliſh ſhip was rendered almoſt a wreck; many of the crew were wounded; one of the paſſengers loſt his arm; and the ſhip was carried into Carthagena. On the diſcovery of the miſtake, into which the very unpardonable precipitancy of the Spaniſh commodore had hurried him, the damages done to the Engliſh ſhip were immediately repaired out of the arſenal at Carthagena; and in conſequence of the ſtrong repreſentations made on that head by Lord Rochfort to the Catholic king, his majeſty defrayed the expence of curing the wounded Engliſh; indemnified their captain for the interruption of his voyage; and gave the paſſenger a gratification for the unfortunate loſs of his arm.

Before the intentions of the Spaniſh cabinet to repair thoſe unauthoriſed acts of injuſtice were made known in England, ſome proceedings of the French in the Weſt Indies afforded the oppoſition freſh matter for increaſing the apprehenſions of a war. At no great diſtance from the coaſt of Hiſpaniola are ſeveral ſmall iſlands, the moſt conſiderable, or rather the leaſt inſignificant, of which is called Turk's Iſland, and gives its name to the reſt. Though it is an uncomfortable barren ſpot, with very little freſh water, without any vegetables except low ſhrubs, or any animals except lizards, and land-crabs; yet the coaſt abounds with fiſh, turtle, and ſea-fowls; and the ſoil itſelf produces ſalt. As it was impoſſible for any ſettlement to ſubſiſt upon the iſland, the property of it remained undetermined: but the Bermudians and other Britiſh ſubjects uſed to reſort thither annually in March for the benefit of gathering ſalt in the dry ſeaſon. Their manner of living was the moſt wretched that can well be conceived: they dwelt in huts covered with leaves: a kettle and a knife were their only utenſils: ſalt pork, and now and then a turtle, or a lizard, was their food; and their dreſs conſiſted of a ſtraw hat, a check ſhirt, and a pair of coarſe linen trowſers. Their chief cuſtomers were the people of New England, who purchaſed the ſalt for their fiſheries, at the rate of from fourpence to ſix-pence a-buſhel, and paid a ſmall part in money, and the reſt in bad rum, and worſe proviſions. Here was nothing to invite invaſion, or rapine. Yet, on the firſt of June, the crew of a French ſeventy-four gun ſhip, and of two or three ſmall veſſels in company, landed on the iſland; plundered and burnt all the cabins

bins that were erected there; and carried off the inhabitants, about two hundred in number, with nine Engliſh veſſels which they found off the coaſt, to Cape François, where they releaſed them next day, with orders not to return to Turk's Iſland. Governor Littleton, on being informed of thoſe unaccountable hoſtilities, loſt no time in communicating his intelligence to the miniſtry, nor they in tranſmitting it to the Earl of Hertford, the Engliſh ambaſſador at the court of France. While factious writers were working upon the fears and credulity of the public, by repreſenting this wanton outrage as the firſt ſtep of a ſcheme formed by the French miniſtry, and which was to be executed by Count d'Eſtaign, for expelling the Engliſh from all the iſlands and poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies, the Gazette of the eleventh of September informed the nation, that the court of France, in anſwer to the Earl of Hertford's demand of immediate ſatisfaction and reparation for thoſe acts of violence, had diſavowed the whole proceedings; had diſclaimed all intention or deſire of acquiring or conquering the Turk's Iſlands; and had given orders to Count d'Eſtaign, governor of St. Domingo, to cauſe the ſaid iſlands to be immediately abandoned on the part of the French, to reſtore every thing therein to the condition in which it was on the firſt of June laſt, and to make reparation of the damages which any of his Britannic majeſty's ſubjects ſhould be found to have ſuſtained, in conſequence of the ſaid proceedings, according to an eſtimation to be forthwith ſettled by the ſaid governor with the governor of Jamaica.

Mr. Grenville's plans for the increaſe of the revenue at home, and for the prevention of ſmuggling on the Britiſh coaſts, were attended with much facility and ſucceſs. The number of cutters and other veſſels, which had been fitted out for the ſuppreſſion of this pernicious practice, were of the utmoſt ſervice to the ſtate, not only from the vaſt number of ſeizures they made, but as being ſo many proviſions for naval officers on half pay, and keeping up a body of ſeamen for the uſe of government. But they were not ſufficient for the extinction of the evil. The Iſle of Man, which was not ſubject to the cuſtom-houſe laws, as not only the property but the ſovereignty of it belonged to the Duke of Athol, lay ſo conveniently for the purpoſe of ſmuggling, that it defeated the utmoſt vigilance of government. So far back as the ſeventh and eighth years of the reign of George I. acts of parliament had been made for preventing ſuch illegal and deſtructive practices; but without effect. A treaty was then entered into by government for purchaſing the property of the iſland, or ſuch a right over it as might deprive the ſmugglers of the haunts and conveniencies they had for carrying on their frauds. This expedient likewiſe proved ineffectual: it was eaſy to aſcertain the real value of the iſland; but the price of relinquiſhed ſovereignty was not ſo ſuſceptible of calculation. Some obſtacles of a private nature being afterwards removed, the treaty was renewed with greater probability of ſucceſs. But, in the mean while, the lords commiſſioners of the treaſury took the matter into their moſt ſerious conſideration, and repreſented to the king and council, that the endeavours they had uſed for improving his majeſty's cuſtoms, and preventing the many frauds committed, eſpecially in the out-ports of the kingdom, were greatly obſtructed by the ſtate of the Iſle of Man, whence a pernicious and illicit trade was carried on to the neighbouring coaſts of Great Britain and Ireland, in violation of the laws, and to the great detriment and diminution of the public revenue. In conſequence of this repreſentation, his majeſty, by the advice of his privy council, publiſhed an order ſignifying his intentions, that the laws ſhould be ſtrictly put in execution againſt ſmugglling, particularly on the neighbouring coaſts of the Iſle of Man; and for this purpoſe, the lords of the admiralty were to ſtation a number of ſhips and cutters, under the command of diſcreet officers, in the harbours and on the coaſts of that iſland: the like vigilance was to be exerted by the government of Ireland: and it was alſo notified by the Britiſh miniſters at foreign courts, that his majeſty being determined to ſuppreſs the illicit trade carried on in the Iſle of Man, would for the future pay no attention to the complaints of the merchants of any nation whatever, whoſe effects, ſent to the Iſle of Man to evade the cuſtoms, ſhould be ſeized and confiſcated. In order to complete this ſeemingly ſmall yet very important buſineſs, Mr. Grenville preſented to the houſe of commons, "a bill for more effectually preventing the miſchiefs ariſing to the revenue and commerce of Great Britain and Ireland, from the illicit and clandeſtine trade to and from the Iſle of Man." It was obvious that no effectual remedy could be applied, but by veſting the ſovereignty of the iſland in the crown of Great Britain. Before the ſecond reading of the bill, the Duke and Ducheſs of Athol preſented a petition for liberty to be heard by counſel againſt it. The object was to obtain a proper comprehenſion or equivalent for the ſurrender of their hereditary rights and title. An abſtract of the clear revenue of the iſland for the laſt ten years, and the propoſals of the duke and ducheſs in their correſpondence with the commiſſioners of the treaſury on the ſubject, were alſo laid before the houſe; and the reſult of all was, that on the 6th of March, two reſolutions were agreed to, and afterwards paſſed into a law, for veſting in the crown all rights, juriſdictions, and intereſts, in and over the ſaid iſland and its dependencies, excepting what related to the landed property; and for allowing the proprietors ſeventy thouſand pounds as a full compenſation for thoſe rights. The liberality of government went ſtill farther, and in addition to the former ſum, granted a penſion of two thouſand pounds a year to the late duke, and to the ducheſs his wife, during their lives, by way of douceur for the relinquiſhment of titular royalty.

Whilſt this affair was under the conſideration of the legiſlature, the journeymen ſilkweavers of London, reinforced by thoſe of all the other trades immediately depending upon that branch, conceiving themſelves greatly injured by the too free uſe of French and other foreign ſilks, aſſembled by beat of drum, with their wives and children, to the amount of many thouſands, in Spitalfields and Moorfields, in order to petition for redreſs by a total prohibition of thoſe articles. They had before applied to his majeſty, who with the greateſt affability and condeſcenſion aſſured them the matter ſhould be properly ſubmitted to parliament, and at his inſtance a bill was forwarding with all poſſible diſpatch to lay ſeveral additional duties on the importation of wrought ſilks and velvets, and to encourage the ſilk manufactures of the kingdom; yet this did not pacify the inſurgents. After having collected all their number at the above places, and made choice of leaders to conduct them, they proceeded in ſeparate bodies, and by different routes, with flags deſigned as emblems of their grievances, to St. James's and Weſtminſter-hall; and not only ſurrounded the palace and both houſes of parliament, but, in ſome meaſure, obſtructed the communication between them. They even ſtopt ſeveral of the members in their chairs and coaches; and though it was only to beſeech them in the humbleſt terms to conſider their diſtreſſes, ſuch unuſual modes of application could not fail of creating the moſt ſerious apprehenſions for the public tranquillity. They beſet the Duke of Bedford's houſe in Bloomſbury-ſquare, where they committed ſome acts of outrage, becauſe he was ſaid to have expreſſed his ſentiments concerning them with too much harſhneſs; and they broke the windows of a few ſhops ſuſpected of ſelling French ſilks; but a mild yet ſteady exertion of the civil power, aſſiſted by the military, reduced them to order,

der, and prevented any farther miſchief. Every ſtep, which rational pity could ſuggeſt, was alſo taken by the legiſlature and by the public. Beſides the acts for increaſing the duties on foreign ſilks and velvets, another was paſſed for prohibiting the importation of ſilk ſtockings, gloves, and mittens. A ſeaſonable ſubſcription was likewiſe ſet on foot for their preſent relief; and the principal ſilk-mercers concurred in an agreement to recal all the orders they had given for foreign manufactures.

Theſe commotions among the journeymen ſilk-weavers were no ſooner allayed, than ſymptoms of another kind of ferment began to appear at court. Since the Earl of Bute's retirement from public buſineſs, the agents of faction had been indefatigable in their endeavors to make the multitude believe, that no important meaſure was determined upon by government without his private advice; and that his ſucceſſors in office were but nominal ſubſtitutes, or rather mere puppets exhibited on the ſtage, while he ſtood behind the curtain managing the wires that regulated all their motions. The great popular ſpeakers in both houſes of parliament took care to countenance, and, as far as they were able, to ſtrengthen thoſe reports by frequent inſinuations of a ſecret influence. Such reproaches, however groundleſs and abſurd, could not be very agreeable to any of the miniſters; but they were particularly ſtinging to the Duke of Bedford, a man proud, irritable, and jealous of his independency. From too violent a deſire to wipe off the aſperſion, and to afford the moſt unqueſtionable proofs of diſregard for the Earl of Bute, his grace contrived to have that nobleman's brother turned out of a very honourable and lucrative employment, enjoyed by him in his own country, and in the diſcharge of which he had not given the leaſt room for complaint. It was impoſſible this ſhould not be conſidered by the king as an affront put upon himſelf. But the duke and his colleagues went ſtill farther; and diſmiſſed Lord Holland and the Earl of Northumberland, for no other reaſon but becauſe they were ſuppoſed to be the Earl of Bute's friends. But the miniſtry did not long enjoy thoſe gratifications of their pride, rather than of their public ſpirit. Offers were made to the principal members of the oppoſition; and, though declined by Mr. Pitt and Lord Temple, were accepted by the Duke of Newcaſtle, the Marquis of Rockingham, and their friends. General Conway, who at the cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion had been deprived of all his employments, and the Duke of Grafton, were made ſecretaries of ſtate. Lord Weymouth's late appointment to the lord-lieutenancy of Ireland was ſuperſeded by that of the Earl of Hertford, General Conway's brother. The preſident's chair, lately filled by the Duke of Bedford, was given to the Earl of Winchelſea; and the places, which Mr. Grenville had united in his own perſon, were now divided, the Marquis of Rockingham becoming firſt lord of the treaſury, and Mr. Dowdeſwell chancellor of the exchequer. Moſt of the other great offices of ſtate were alſo filled with new men, except that Lord Egmont was continued at the head of the admiralty, and the Duke of Newcaſtle choſe to be lord privy ſeal, a place of eaſe well ſuited to his years, and yet of honour and confidence, the things of which his grace had ever appeared moſt ambitious. This arrangement, or alteration of the miniſtry, was entirely the work of the Duke of Cumberland, who continued for ſome time to aſſiſt them with his advice, but did not live long enough to ſee the conſequences of the moſt important of their deliberations. On the evening of the 31ſt of October, as his royal highneſs was preparing to aſſiſt at a council on affairs of ſtate which was to be held at his own houſe in Upper Groſvenor-ſtreet, he was ſeized with a diſorder of which he had ſome ſymptoms the night before; and in a fit of ſhivering ſunk ſenſeleſs, almoſt inſtantaneouſly, in the arms of the Earl of Albemarle. On being opened, there was ſound, in the right ventricle of the brain, a coagulation of extravaſated blood, about the ſize of a pigeon's egg, which was the cauſe of his death. The membrane of the lobes of the brain was oſſified.—In leſs than two months after, the royal family ſuſtained another loſs in the death of Prince Frederic William, his majeſty's youngeſt brother.

During the painful ſuſpenſe which the people of England muſt have felt with regard to the effects of the ſtamp-act in America, and while the moſt enlightened patriots ſaw with concern ſome heavy clouds collecting over the weſtern hemiſphere, a brighter proſpect preſented itſelf in the eaſt, where the affairs of the India company were ſaid to go on in a brilliant career of ſucceſs. Alarm from that quarter alſo had been frequently and very juſtly excited in the courſe of the laſt three or four years; but it ſeemed now to ſubſide in perfect ſecurity. The tranſactions there, though of no ſmall moment, have been hitherto paſſed over, in order to keep them diſtinct, and to exhibit them in regular and unbroken ſucceſſion.

Meer Jaffier, whom Lord Clive had raiſed to the tottering dignity of nabob, in 1757, was compelled in about three years after to reſign the government to his ſon-in-law Meer Coſſim, who had entered into a ſecret treaty for that purpoſe with the council of Calcutta. But Meer Coſſim, nabob or ſubah of Bengal, having been enabled by the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh to check Sha Zaddah's progreſs, was influenced by private motives to treat the conquered prince with extraordinary reſpect. Coſſim, though indebted to the Engliſh for the acquiſition of the ſubahſhip in the firſt inſtance, and for the ſecure poſſeſſion of it afterwards, conceived the deſign of freeing himſelf from what he thought the chains of a ruinous and diſhonourable dependence. Inſtead, therefore, of impoſing hard terms on the Mogul prince, he ſtrove to ſecure his friendſhip, of which he foreſaw the value as ſoon as he ſhould be prepared to avow his intentions. But theſe he artfully concealed for ſome time, and even continued to avail himſelf of the power of the Engliſh, whilſt he found it ſerviceable to him. By their means he cleared his government of invaders, and ſtrengthened his frontiers: he reduced the rajahs, or independent Indian chiefs, who had rebelled during the feeble adminiſtration of his predeceſſor; and by compelling them to pay the uſual tribute, repaired his exhauſted finances, and thus ſecured the diſcipline and fidelity of his troops. Peace and order being reſtored to his province, his next ſtep was to remove his court from Murſhudabad, the vicinity of which to Calcutta gave the factory an opportunity of watching his conduct too narrowly, and of cruſhing all his efforts on the firſt ſuſpicion. He moved two hundred miles higher up the Ganges, and fixed his reſidence at Mongheer, which he fortified as ſtrongly and expeditiouſly as he could. Here he began to form his army on a new model. He drew together all the Perſians, Tartars, Armenians, and other ſoldiers of fortune, whoſe military ſpirit he wiſhed to infuſe into his Indian forces, and whoſe example might, he hoped, teach them to overcome their natural timidity. Senſible of the ſuperiority of European diſcipline, he neglected nothing to acquire it. Every wandering Frenchman, every ſepoy who had been diſmiſſed from the Engliſh ſervice, he carefully picked up, and diſtributed amongſt his troops, in order to train them to the moſt perfect exerciſe. He changed the faſhion of the Indian muſkets from matchlocks to firelocks; and, becauſe his cannon was nearly as defective as his ſmall arms, he procured from the Engliſh a pattern of one, on which he formed an excellent train of artillery. Attentive to his army, he was not forgetful of his court; the treachery and factious diſſenſions of which had hitherto been more

fatal

ſatal to the Indian princes than the feebleneſs of their arms. He therefore cut off without remorſe, or threw into priſon, every conſiderable perſon in his dominions who had ſhewn any attachment to the Engliſh. Thus ſtrengthened by every meaſure, which a ſubtle and enterpriſing man, unchecked by conſcience, could take, he began to exert that authority, which he thought ſo firmly and ſo juſtly eſtabliſhed. His revenue, though on a much better footing than that of his predeceſſor, ſtill fell very ſhort of its ancient limits. The free trade, which his own and his father-in-law's neceſſities had extorted in favour of the company's ſervants, threatened to annihilate his cuſtoms, as it diverted all the domeſtic and foreign commerce of Bengal into a channel from which he could derive no benefit. To remedy this evil, he ſubjected all the Engliſh private traders to the regular and equal payment of duties throughout his dominions; and iſſued an order, that their diſputes, if they happened in his territories, ſhould be decided by his magiſtrates.

The Engliſh factory took the alarm. Mr. Vanſittart, the governor, went in the latter end of the year 1762, to Mongheer, in order to expoſtulate with the ſubah, who anſwered his remonſtrances with a command of temper equal to the force of his reaſoning: "If," ſaid he, "the ſervants of the company were permitted, as they now deſire, to trade cuſtom-free in all parts, and in all commodities, they muſt of courſe draw all trade into their own hands; and my cuſtoms would be of ſo little value, that it would be more for my intereſt to lay trade entirely open, and to collect no duties upon any kind of merchandiſe. This would invite numbers of merchants into the country, and increaſe my revenues by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of goods for ſale, at the ſame time that it would cut off the principal ſource of our quarrels, an object which I have more than any other at heart." The truth of theſe remarks could not be controverted;

but Coſſim's conduct was ſtill a direct violation of the treaty, or bargain he made with the company's ſervants on his obtaining the ſubahſhip, by which they were entitled to the privileges in queſtion. The matter, however, was evidently in his power, unleſs a war prevented him. The governor, though long accuſtomed to dictate on ſuch occaſions, ſubmitted to certain regulations, which, if not unreaſonable, were very unpleaſing. Theſe were inſtantly put in execution; and the Indian magiſtrates began to exerciſe their power with a proper ſpirit, as they ſaid, but, as the Engliſh traders complained, with partiality and rigour.

As ſoon as the effect of the negociation was made known at Calcutta, it threw the factory into a flame. They were filled with indignation and aſtoniſhment, at finding, that an Aſiatic prince, created by themſelves, had dared to aſſert his independency. They began to repent of their late change, and to wiſh that they had left the timid and indolent Jaffier to ſlumber quietly on his throne. The council diſavowed the proceedings of the governor; ſent orders to all the factories, forbidding them to ſubmit to any of the propoſed reſtrictions; and ſolicited Coſſim to enter into a new agreement. But now grown confident of his ſtrength, he charged them with inconſtancy and inſolence, and refuſed to negociate with their deputies. The Engliſh factory, yielding in nothing to his ſpirit, prepared to draw their army into the field, and once more proclaimed Meer Jaffier ſubah of Bengal.

In this war, the firſt blow was ſtruck by the Engliſh. At Patna, a great commercial city, three hundred miles up the Ganges, they had a fortified factory, and ſome European as well as Indian ſoldiers. Theſe ſuddenly attacked the town on the 25th of June 1763, and made themſelves maſters of it without much difficulty, notwithſtanding its fortifications had been newly repaired, and that it was defended by a ſtrong garriſon. The Indian governor and his troops fled at the firſt aſſault into the country; but being reinforced, he returned in a few hours to Patna, and ſurpriſed the Engliſh, who had neglected every precaution, and were wildly diſperſed on every ſide, waſting and plundering that opulent and feeble city. Many of them were cut to pieces, the reſt took refuge in the fort. But even this they ſoon abandoned, ſo ſpiritleſs did they become in conſequence of the unexpected turn of their affairs. Croſſing the Ganges, they marched for three days without interruption; but were at length overtaken by a ſuperior force. In the firſt engagement fortune proved favourable; in the ſecond they were entirely routed, and ſhared that fate which might naturally be expected from ſo raſh and precipitate a reſolution. At a diſtance from all ſuccour, and in the heart of the enemy's country, they had no ſafety to hope for, but from the defence of their factory, where they might have maintained themſelves for a long time, the Indians being very inexpert in the art of reducing fortified places.

Though the deputies, ſent to Mongheer, had he nabob's paſs, and ought to have been by the law of nations ſacred, they were attacked in their return, and miſerably ſlaughtered with their attendants. This act of barbarity haſtened the march of the army under Major Adams, who, at firſt, had only one royal regiment, a few of the company's forces, two troops of European cavalry, ten companies of ſepoys, and twelve pieces of cannon. With theſe he proved victorious in ſeveral briſk ſkirmiſhes, and cleared the country as far as the Coſſimbuzar, a branch of the Ganges, which it was neceſſary to paſs, before any attempt could be made on Murſhudabad, the capital of the province. The enemy did not oppoſe his paſſage; but had drawn out their army, conſiſting of ten thouſand men, in an advantageous poſt at a place called Ballaſara, between the river and the city. By a judicious movement, he obliged them to begin the action, which they did with great ſpirit, and bore the cannonade very firmly; but, at the diſtance of fifty yards, they received ſuch a ſtorm of muſketry, as made them retreat in the utmoſt confuſion and precipitancy. Adams, with that rapidity which is always uſeful in war, but was here indiſpenſible, as the periodical rains began to fall, marched forward; but found the enemy again in his way, defended by an intrenchment fifteen feet high, and by a numerous artillery. It would have been an unjuſtifiable boldneſs to think of forcing ſo ſtrong a poſt: he had recourſe to a ſtratagem, which ſucceeded. He made a feint of attacking them where their principal ſtrength lay, while the body of his army marched in the night to the oppoſite quarter of their line, and maſtered it at day-break with little difficulty. Aſtoniſhed at this ſtroke, the Indians fled, and abandoned the camp, and the city which it covered, to the conqueror.

So conſiderable an advantage, which the Engliſh gained on the 23d of July 1763, did not ſlacken, but increaſed their diligence and exertions. They penetrated into the inmoſt receſſes of the province, and croſſing the numerous and wide branches of the Ganges, ſought out the ſubah through marſhes and foreſts. He was not remiſs in his own defence. Knowing the inferiority of his troops, and the ſlight attachment of Indian ſubjects to their prince, Coſſim never ventured the final deciſion of the war on a ſingle battle, nor hazarded his perſon in any engagement. The faithleſsneſs of his grandees, who might by treaſon erect their own fortune on his ruin, deterred him from the latter; and the former could never be deemed adviſable by a man, whom the experience of others had taught that an immenſe multitude of undiſciplined troops only confounds veterans, and contributes to the greatneſs of a defeat. In ſhort, his whole conduct was formed upon wiſe principles; but his troops had not time to be completed in their new exerciſe. The Engliſh were alſo in the career of victory, and nothing could ſtand before them. Yet they found a ſenſible difference in the oppoſition they now met with, though it was not able fully to obſtruct their progreſs. Ten days after their late victory, they found twenty thouſand horſe and eight thouſand foot, excellently poſted on the banks of the Nuncas Nullas, well defended by a formidable train of artillery, divided into regular brigades, armed and clothed like Europeans, and in every reſpect diſplaying the ſame order and ſpirit as themſelves. What was never before obſerved in India, the enemy did not diſcharge a cannon till the Engliſh began the attack. A conſtant fire was kept up on both ſides for the ſpace of four hours, during which time the Indian cavalry charged the European regulars, at the diſtance of twenty yards, with uncommon reſolution. But in ſpite of all the efforts of their improved diſcipline and courage, they were at length compelled to fly, with the loſs of all their artillery.

After this deciſive proof of the ſuperiority of the Engliſh forces, the Indians never attempted a regular engagement in the open field during the remainder of the campaign. But they ſhewed neither want of ſpirit nor ſkill in defending their towns and fortreſſes. At Auda Nulla particularly, they held out with wonderful art and perſeverance, baffling every operation againſt them, from the 21ſt of Auguſt till the 4th of September, when, being overpowered by one of Major Adam's well-concerted ſtratagems, they ſuffered an incredible ſlaughter. The carrying of this ſtrong hold laid open the whole country to the victorious arms of the Engliſh as far as the gates of Mongheer, which ſurrendered to them after only nine days open trenches.

Nothing now remained to complete the reduction of the whole province, but the taking of Patna. This was the laſt hope of Coſſim, who had accordingly taken every poſſible precaution to ſtrengthen and ſecure it. He placed in the city a garriſon of ten thouſand

ſand men, and hovered at ſome diſtance with ſeveral large bodies of horſe to annoy the beſiegers. But this barbarian merited by his cruelties the ill ſucceſs which conſtantly attended all his meaſures, however well choſen. Irritated at the progreſs of Adams, and unable to avenge himſelf in the field, he iſſued orders for maſſacring about two hundred Engliſhmen, who had been made priſoners at Patna, in the beginning of the troubles. One Someraw a German, who had deſerted from the company's ſervice, was choſen for the perpetration of this horrid villany. On the day intended for butchering theſe unfortunate perſons, he invited forty of the moſt conſiderable to ſupper at his houſe; and, in the midſt of convivial mirth, when they thought themſelves protected by the laws of hoſpitality as well as of war, the ruffian ordered the Indians under his command to cut their throats. Theſe barbarous ſoldiers revolted at the ſavage order: they refuſed at firſt to obey, deſiring that arms might be given to the Engliſh, and that they would then engage them. Someraw, fixed in his purpoſe, compelled them by threats and blows to the accompliſhment of that odious ſervice. The unfortunate victims, though ſuddenly attacked and wholly unarmed, made a long and brave defence, killing ſome of the aſſailants with their plates and bottles. In the end they were all murdered; and the reſt of the priſoners met with the ſame fate. This enormous crime was not long unrevenged. Adams ſoon laid ſiege to Patna; and notwithſtanding the ſtrength of the garriſon, and the unuſual intrepidity and ſucceſs of ſome of their ſallies, he took the place by ſtorm in eight days, and forced the perfidious Coſſim to ſeek an aſylum in the territories of Sujah Doula, a neighbouring ſubah, who voted as vizir to the great Mogul.

No campaign had ever been conducted with more ability; no plan better laid, or more ſyſtematically followed; no operations more rapid. In leſs than four months Major Adams completed, the firſt of any European, the entire conqueſt of Bengal. He gained in that time four capital victories, forced the ſtrongeſt entrenchments, ſtormed two fortified cities, took five hundred pieces of cannon, and drove into exile the moſt artful, reſolute, and implacable, enemy the Engliſh had ever before encountered in India. Meer Coſſim's expulſion was not, however, attended with any laſting ſecurity to the company's affairs in the eaſt: it removed rather than extinguiſhed the fire. The Indian princes, ſenſible that againſt European invaders the cauſe of one was the cauſe of all, were alarmed for their own independence, and at the inſtigation of the fugitive ſubah took up arms againſt the Engliſh. The death of Adams, whoſe name was ſo terrible to them, contributed very much to this reſolution. The Shah Zaddah and the nabob Sujah Doula united their forces, and threatened to reſtore the exiled Coſſim, at the head of an army of fifty thouſand men, with a ſuitable train of artillery. Major Munro, who ſucceeded Adams, ſhewed himſelf by no means unworthy of ſuch an appointment. He marched directly in queſt of the enemy, and came up with them on the 22d of October 1764, at a place called Buxar, on the banks of the Camnaſſary, about one hundred miles above Patna, where they were encamped with all the advantages nature and art could beſtow. Before them lay a moraſs judiciouſly lined with cannon, which could neither be paſſed nor doubled without extreme danger. At the only end by which they ſeemed acceſſible, ſtood a wood occupied by a large body of Indians, who were deſtined to gall the Engliſh in their approach. The firſt appearance of ſuch a ſituation was alone ſufficient to make Major Munro defer an attack, till it could be properly explored. On the day, therefore, of his arrival in ſight of the enemy, he pitched his tents juſt out of the reach of their cannon, and diſpoſed his men ſo as to be ready to form on any emergency. This precaution was far from being ſuperfluous; for going out next morning at day-break to reconnoitre the enemy, he found them already under arms. Upon this returning to his camp, he called in all his advanced poſts, and, in conſequence of the wiſe diſpoſitions made the day before, ſaw his line of battle completely formed in leſs than twenty minutes. The Indians began to cannonade the Engliſh at nine o'clock; and in half an hour after the action became general. For above two hours it was impoſſible to preſs forward againſt the regular and galling fire of the enemy in front; till Munro, by a variety of manœuvres directed with judgment and executed with intrepidity, having cleared the left wing of the moraſs, the ſmall arms began, and the whole Indian army was ſoon put to flight, leaving ſix thouſand men on the ſpot, with a hundred and thirty pieces of cannon, a proportionable quantity of military ſtores, and all their tents ready pitched. This advantage coſt the victors, in killed and wounded, but one hundred and nine Europeans, and ſeven hundred Indians.

The indefatigable major followed the blow by an attempt on the only fort which was ſtill left to Sujah Doula on the ſame ſide of the river Camnaſſary. This fort, called Chanda Geer, was a place of very great ſtrength from its elevated and almoſt inacceſſable ſituation on a craggy rock; and, as it appeared afterwards, was ſtill ſtronger by the courage and fidelity of the Indian officer who commanded there. A practicable breach in the walls being effected by artillery, a party of the Engliſh forces was ſent to ſtorm it in the night-time; but while they were vainly endeavouring to clamber up the ſteep aſcent, the Indians with equal vigilance and activity poured down upon them ſuch torrents of ſtones, as forced them to deſiſt, after many were buried under the rubbiſh made by their own cannon. Shame and a ſenſe of honour tempted them to renew the attack on the enſuing night, but they met with no better ſucceſs. Munro, therefore, finding it to be a place which no art was requiſite to defend, though a great deal to take it, drew off his troops, reſolving to reſerve their courage and conduct for ſome better occaſion; and encamped in the neighbourhood of Benares, an almoſt open and opulent city, which it was of importance to protect againſt the incurſions of a plundering enemy.

Affairs were thus circumſtanced in the beginning of the year 1765, when, Major Munro being recalled home, the temporary command of the army devolved on Sir Robert Fletcher; who, emulous of the glory gained by his predeceſſors, reſolved to do ſomething to ſignalize himſelf, before General Carnac, named by the governor and council of Bengal, could arrive to preclude him. With this view, he broke up his camp near Benares at midnight of the 14th of January, and marched in queſt of the enemy, whom he chaced before him. He next turned his thoughts to the reduction of the fort, the ſiege of which Munro had found it ſo imprudent to continue. As he attacked it in the ſame manner, he would probably have found it equally impregnable: but great diſcontents now prevailed among the garriſon, in conſequence of their having received no pay for ſix months, ſo that they no longer thought it worth their while to expoſe themſelves to any more trouble or danger in ſuch unprofitable ſervice. Three breaches being made in the walls, the governor came, in ſight of his troops, to Sir Robert, and delivered up the keys, with tears in his eyes, and a ſpeech, which, at the ſame time that it contained the higheſt compliment to his enemy, argued the greateſt nobleneſs of mind in himſelf. "I have," ſaid he, "endeavoured to act like a ſoldier; but deſerted by my prince, and threatened by a mutinous garriſon, what could I do? God and you (here he laid his hand on the koran, and pointed to his ſoldiers) are witneſſes that I yield through neceſſity, and that to the faith of the Engliſh I now truſt my life and fortune." The ſurrender of this fort was quickly followed by a much greater, though not a more difficult, conqueſt. Sir Robert met with little reſiſtance in making himſelf maſter of the enemy's capital, called Eliabad, a large and ſtrong city about ſeventy miles higher up the Ganges, and of ſuch importance as ſeemingly to complete the ruin of Sujah Doula.

Soon after the taking of Eliabad, General Carnac aſſumed the command of the army, and made the beſt diſpoſitions for ſecuring the new conqueſts, as well as for reſtoring order and government to the country. Nothing occurred for ſome time to give him the leaſt moleſtation. Sujah Doula was not in a condition immediately to oppoſe him. The battle of Buxar had given a terrible blow to the nabob's credit and power: Shah Zadda, the mogul, had then deſerted him, and gone over to the Engliſh: his forces had alſo gradually crumbled away by frequent and bloody defeats: ſtill finding a reſource in his own ſteadineſs and courage, he reſolved not to fall in a weak and inglorious manner. He gathered together, with great aſſiduity, the remains of his routed armies, and as he knew that they alone could not prop his falling fortune, he applied for aſſiſtance to the Marattas, the inhabitants of the mountainous country to the ſouth-weſt of Oude, his province. They are an original tribe of Indians, who were never perfectly ſubdued by the mogul Tartars. Their principal ſtrength conſiſted in their horſe, with which they over-ran and rendered tributary ſeveral provinces, ſpreading terror and devaſtation around them. But their fame in arms ceaſed when they encountered the Engliſh: meeting Carnac at Calpi on the 20th of May, they were totally routed, and obliged to ſeek for ſhelter in their own mountains.

Foiled in all his military attempts, Sujah Doula took a reſolution altogether worthy of the ſpirit and policy of his character. Thinking it better to throw his life and fortune upon the generoſity of a brave enemy, than to wander a forlorn exile, dependent on the uncertain hoſpitality of neighbours, who might purchaſe their own ſafety by his ruin, he determined to anticipate his fate, and to ſurrender himſelf. Having with a ſpirit of fidelity unuſual in that country allowed Coſſim and the aſſaſſin Someraw to eſcape, he appeared three days after the action at Calpi, in General Carnac's camp, nothing being previouſly ſtipulated in his favour, but that he ſhould await Lord Clive's determination.

On the firſt intelligence received by the India company that this war had broke out, they were ſtruck with the utmoſt conſternation. Under the influence of ſuch a panic, nothing ſeemed to them capable of re-eſtabliſhing their affairs but the name and fortune of Lord Clive, to whom former ſucceſs had given the character of invincible among the ſuperſtitious Indians. The company forgot, that other officers had gained equal *honour*, though not equal *fortunes*, in that part of the world. As if the enemies were at their gates, they created a dictator: they inveſted him and four other gentlemen with unlimited authority to examine and determine every thing, independently of the council, as long as Bengal remained in a ſtate of war or confuſion. Theſe extraordinary powers were not granted without a vigorous oppoſition. Two conſiderable proprietors, who entered a ſtrong proteſt againſt them, repreſented the commiſſion as illegal and inexpedient: but the general fear over-ruled their objections; and the ſelect committee, as it was called, ſailed for Bengal.

Before the committee's arrival there, Meer Jaffier, who had experienced ſuch a variety of fortunes, died, and nominated his ſon, Naijem Doula, his ſucceſſor. The council of Calcutta, after ſome deliberation, confirmed his choice, even to the excluſion of the male iſſue of a deceaſed elder ſon, becauſe it was conformable to the Muſſulman cuſtom, which permits the latter to leave the ſucceſſion to any of his own ſurviving ſons, in preference to his grandſon in the elder branch; and becauſe, from the favourite ſon's perſonal character, he ſeemed likely to be contented with a moderate ſhare of power. But previous to his receiving this honour, the terms were preſcribed, on which he was to be admitted to it. The late ſubah had been bound by treaty to maintain an army of twelve thouſand horſe and as many foot; inſtead of which, as they had never been found ſerviceable, the new one was obliged to ſettle eight hundred thouſand pounds a-year, payable out of his treaſury, upon the company, who undertook to maintain a ſufficient force for his and their own ſecurity. He was entirely freed from the trouble of keeping any ſoldiers, except a few for parade. It was likewiſe reſolved, that he ſhould diſcard his tutor and prime miniſter, Nuncomar, and receive in his room a perſon appointed by the council, who was to act in the ſame double capacity, as inſtructor of his youth, and chief manager in his government. The council aſſumed a negative in the nomination of ſuperintendants and other officers employed in collecting or receiving the revenues; and inſiſted on the ſubah's paying all due reſpect to any complaints, which they might prefer againſt the behaviour of thoſe, who already were or ſhould be appointed.

Notwithſtanding Naijem Doula's inexperience and the ſuppoſed pliancy of his character, he made as firm an oppoſition to theſe terms as any perſon in his circumſtances could well do. The being obliged to part with Nuncomar, and to accept of a miniſter whom he could conſider in no other light than as a ſpy upon his actions, was particularly galling. He alſo objected to ſeveral of the regulations that were propoſed, in regard to the collection of the revenues; and inſiſted on the ſole and uncontroled nomination of his own officers. But the force of his remonſtrances on any of thoſe points was of little ſervice to him; and his attempts to ſoften the deputies, who had been ſent to negociate the treaty, proved equally fruitleſs. Not the ſmalleſt relaxation was to be obtained; and diſagreeable as the terms were, he found it neceſſary to ſign them, or to relinquiſh all his fondeſt hopes and pretenſions.

In the mean time, Lord Clive repaired to the army at Eliabad; full powers being veſted in him and General Carnac by the ſelect committee to conclude a peace with Sujah Doula, whom the council, on account of his obſtinacy and implacability, had deprived of his dominions. The Shah Zadda, who had now ſucceeded his father as mogul, and had remained with the Engliſh ſince the battle of Buxar, was to take poſſeſſion of the depoſed nabob's territories, as he had diſcovered an attachment to the Engliſh, and engaged in the war againſt his inclination. Theſe arrangements were entirely diſapproved of by Lord Clive: he reſtored his province to Sujah Doula, and diſappointed the ſanguine hopes of the mogul. He ſaid, that the company's affairs were likely to be involved in an inextricable labyrinth; that the ſucceſs of their arms promiſed nothing but a ſucceſſion of future wars; and that to ruin Sujah Doula was to break down the ſtrongeſt barrier which the Bengal provinces could have againſt the invaſions of the Marattas, Afghans, and other powers, who had ſo long deſolated the northern diſtricts. The mogul, whoſe cauſe the council had favoured, his lordſhip repreſented as utterly incapable of collecting the revenues of Sujah Doula's country without the aſſiſtance of the company's whole force; nor could their connection with him end here: they muſt have marched their army to Delhi, and eſtabliſhed his authority in the empire. For theſe reaſons, his territories were reſtored to the nabob of Oude; a ſmall tract of land, yielding two hundred and fifty thouſand pounds annually, being reſerved for the mogul, who was thus enabled to raiſe ſome forces, and to take poſſeſſion of his capital. The company were conſtituted dewans, or perpetual collectors, of the revenues of Bengal under the mogul, to whom they in return engaged to pay twenty ſix lacks of rupees yearly, amounting to three hundred and twenty-five thouſand pounds in Engliſh money. The nabob, who was to be the acting collector under the company, was alſo allowed by them an annual revenue of ſix hundred and ſixty-two thouſand five hundred pounds, for the ſupport of his dignity, and the expences of his civil government. They likewiſe guaranteed the reſpective territories of Sujah Doula and the mogul, and obtained ſeveral articles in favour of their own inland trade.

The advantages accruing to the company from this treaty were ſaid to be immenſe. According to the noble lord, who concluded it, they would receive a clear yearly income of one million ſeven hundred thouſand pounds, exempt from all charges, expences, and deductions. By ſuch a large acceſſion of treaſure, they would be enabled to make proper inveſtments from Bengal to China, without draining England of its ſilver, for the payment of the great balance in trade, which is conſtantly due to that country. The ſecurity and permanence, which the company were likely to acquire in conſequence of the treaty, tended greatly to enforce the policy of ſuch a meaſure. As they now became a part of the empire according to its ancient conſtitution, they were ſure of all the ſupport which the mogul could give; and, as they had a large revenue appropriated to the purpoſe of maintaining a ſufficient force for their protection, they were no longer in danger of falling victims to the avarice or caprice of the nabobs.

At the ſame time Lord Clive introduced ſeveral judicious regulations into the army. He put the troops in the country on a new footing: he ordered barracks to be built for them in proper places: he alſo divided them into three parts, each of which was to conſiſt of one regiment of European infantry, one company of artillery,

lery, and ſeven battalions of ſepoys, each battalion to conſiſt of ſeven hundred rank and file. One of theſe diviſions was ſtationed at Eliabad, a ſecond at Patna, and the third in the neighbourhood at Calcutta. Theſe arrangements were well calculated to preſerve the tranquillity of the empire, and to ſecure to the company the fruits of their late acquiſitions.

But, about the middle of the year 1767, the company was plunged into a conteſt with the moſt formidable enemy they had ever encountered in that part of the world. This was the famous Hyder Ali, who by daring treachery, and one of thoſe amazing revolutions ſo frequent in India, had riſen from a common ſepoy to the ſovereignty of an extenſive country on the coaſt of Malabar. Though his ambition increaſed with his power and ſucceſs, yet it was always under the reſtraints of the ſoundeſt policy; and, while he neglected no means of ſecuring his empire and improving the diſcipline of his armies, he cautiouſly avoided giving any offence to the company, which could provoke or juſtify a war. On the contrary, it is aſſerted, that their ſhips were permitted to trade in his ports without moleſtation, and their ſervants had a free intercourſe with his dominions, till the very moment of the rupture. He was not, however, unprepared for ſuch an event. In addition to his own reſources, he had the addreſs to gain over to his ſide the nizam of the Decan, a potentate of high rank in India, and whoſe territories bordered upon thoſe of the company. But notwithſtanding the number of their united forces, and the extraordinary effects of the diſcipline introduced by Hyder, they were defeated with great loſs by Colonel Smith near Trincomalee, on the 26th of September 1767; after which the nizam made a ſeparate peace with the Engliſh, yielding up to them a conſiderable territory, called the Balagat Carnatic. Hyder, though deſerted by his late ally, and though in the month of February following he received another very ſevere blow in the loſs of his whole navy at Mangalore, was far from betraying any ſymptoms of dejection or diſmay; but transferred the war to a mountainous part of the country, where his enemies were prevented from doing any thing deciſive, and where he could avail himſelf of all the advantages, which the celerity of his own army, compoſed chiefly of horſe, gave him in ſuch circumſtances. At length by a ſeries of rapid movements, in which the company's troops were greatly harraſſed, and their ſupplies often intercepted, he wheeled round them, and ruſhed with deſolating fury into the Carnatic. This manœuvre had all the effect he could wiſh. They were immediately obliged to evacuate his territories, and to retire in haſte to the defence of their own and their allies. Thus he recovered, without fighting, ſome forts and ſtrong poſts which they had taken; and, inſtead of a fugitive retreating before his enemies, and unable to defend his own dominions, he came as a vindictive and haughty victor to pour deſtruction into theirs. His cavalry, being now let looſe into its proper ſphere, ſpread far and wide its deſtructive ravages; while Hyder, with his uſual ſagacity, avoided a general engagement, and contented himſelf with attacking detached parties of the Engliſh army, cutting off their convoys, and wearying them out by their own fruitleſs endeavours to bring him to action. Other adventurers, allured by the proſpect of plunder, joined him in great numbers: ſome of the Mahratta princes were on the point of entering into alliances with him; and nothing leſs than the expulſion of the Engliſh ſeemed to be the object of ſuch powerful confederacies. It was at this ſtage of the war, towards the cloſe of the year 1768, that the accounts were brought away from India, which occaſioned ſo much conſternation among the company at home. Even thoſe, who knew that Hyder Ali's whole force was unable to make any impreſſion on the Engliſh ſettlements, were juſty apprehenſive of his incurſions into the open provinces, which he laid waſte, and thereby deſtroyed the company's principal reſources for carrying on the war. Their trade, their revenue, might be materially injured, though the enemy's ſucceſs was not ſuch as to endanger their ſecurity. The progreſs and final iſſue of the war exactly correſponded with theſe ideas. Hyder's devaſtations in the Carnatic were attended with very diſtreſſing effects. The nabob of Arcot, a ſtaunch friend and faithful ally of the company, was nearly ruined. The income of the eſtabliſhment at Madras being inadequate to its preſent exigencies, large remittances from Bengal became neceſſary; and as theſe were unavoidably made in a baſe kind of gold coin, the loſs in the difference of exchange only was ſaid to amount to forty thouſand pounds. A ſtop was alſo put to the uſual inveſtments from Madras to China, no ſilver being now ſtirring in the country, and the manufactures at a ſtand from the fear of the enemy. But the moſt provoking circumſtance of all was the ever-watchful ſagacity with which Hyder baffled every effort of the company's forces either to check his career, or to bring him to cloſe action. The firſt defeat, which he had ſuſtained from Colonel Smith in the year 1767, made him extremely cautious; and though he was tempted in October 1768, at the head of fourteen thouſand horſe and ſix battalions of ſepoys, to attack a detachment of four hundred and ſixty Europeans, and two thouſand three hundred ſepoys, commanded by Colonel Wood, the neceſſity of retreating, after an obſtinate conteſt of ſix hours, afforded him another mortifying proof of the ſuperiority of his adverſaries, which no numbers, diſcipline, or exertions on his part, were able to counterbalance. He therefore adhered to his predatory plan; and as he had totally laid aſide the heavy unwieldy cannon before uſed by the Indian princes, and took care to prevent his troops from being encumbered with baggage, nothing could equal the celerity of his motions. In the month of March 1769, having given the Engliſh army in the Carnatic the ſlip, he ſuddenly appeared in force at the gates of Madras. The preſidency now thought proper to enter into a negociation for peace, propoſing a truce of fifty days for that purpoſe; but Hyder would grant a ceſſation of arms for ſeven days only, in which time articles of accommodation were ſigned, April 3, 1769, and the conqueſts on both ſides reciprocally reſtored.

We have ſeen p. 408-411, that the great European powers, had every diſpoſition to continue at peace with us: but the diſpute about the Falkland iſlands, which aroſe about the end of this year, exhibited much probability of a rupture with Spain. A frigate from the ſouthern ocean, which arrived at Plymouth on the 3d of June, brought advices of a formal warning given by the Spaniards to the Engliſh to quit a ſettlement lately made at Falkland iſlands, though ſanctioned by the double right of diſcovery and poſſeſſion.—Theſe iſlands, which are ſituated at a ſmall diſtance from the ſouthern extremity of America, were firſt obſerved by Captain Davies in the year 1592, but did not receive their preſent name till the reign of William III. They were afterwards viſited by ſome ſhips belonging to St. Maloes, whence they were called the *Malouines* by the French, rather from an impulſe of national vanity, than from any conviction of the validity of their title. The rigour of the climate, the ſterility of the ſoil, and the expoſure of all the iſlands on that coaſt to almoſt perpetual ſtorms even in the ſummer months, were ſuch diſcouraging circumſtances, that above a century and a half elapſed before any European nation attempted to make a ſettlement there. It was firſt remarked by Lord Anſon, on his return from his famous voyage round the globe in 1744, that the poſſeſſion of a port to the ſouthward of the Brazils would be of ſignal ſervice to future navigators for refitting their ſhips, and providing them with neceſſaries, previous to their paſſage through the ſtraits of Magellan, or the doubling Cape Horn; and among other places eligible for this purpoſe, he ſpecified Falkland iſlands. About ten years after, on his lordſhip's advancement to the head of the admiralty, a plan in conformity to his ideas was on the point of being carried into execution; but ſtrong remonſtrances againſt it being made by the King of Spain under the old pretence of his excluſive right to all the Magellanic regions, the project, though not expreſsly given up, was ſuffered to lie dormant. It was revived in the year 1764, under the auſpices of Lord Egmont, who then preſided at the admiralty board, and by whoſe advice Commodore Anſon being ſent out to take poſſeſſion of thoſe iſlands, executed the order with the uſual formalities; made a ſettlement; and erected a ſmall fort in the vicinity of a commodious harbour, to which the name of *Port Egmont* was given. It happened that about the ſame time a ſettlement had alſo been made, and a fortreſs erected, by the celebrated French navigator M. de Bougainville on another of thoſe iſlands to the eaſtward of the Engliſh ſettlement, under the name of *Port Louis*. But, in conſequence of the repreſentations of the court of Madrid to the court of Verſailles, this was yielded up in 1766 to the Spaniards, who changed its name to that of *Port Solidad*.

In the year 1769, Captain Hunt of the Tamar frigate, happening to be on a cruize off Falkland's iſlands, fell in with a Spaniſh ſchooner which had been at Port Solidad. During all this time, it is uncertain whether the Britiſh and Spaniſh ſettlers knew of one another or not. From the behaviour of Captain Hunt we ſhould ſuppoſe that neither of them knew that the other had a ſettlement in a diſtinct part of the iſland, as he charged the commander of the ſchooner to depart from that coaſt, being the property of his Britannic majeſty. The ſchooner, however, ſoon returned, bringing an officer from the governor of Buenos Ayres, who gave the like warning to Captain Hunt to depart from the coaſt, as belonging to the King of Spain. Some altercation enſued; but Captain Hunt, not chooſing to carry matters to extremities, ſet ſail for England, where he arrived in June 1770.

At the departure of Captain Hunt, two frigates were left at Falkland's iſlands. One of theſe was loſt in a ſhort time after; and on the 4th of June 1770, a Spaniſh frigate arrived at the Engliſh ſettlement named Fort Egmont with a number of guns and other warlike utenſils for carrying on a regular ſiege. In three days, four other frigates arrived, laden in the ſame manner; ſo that the Engliſh commander, Captain Farmer, finding all reſiſtance vain, was obliged to capitulate. The Engliſh were ordered to depart within a limited time, carrying with them what ſtores they could; and the Spaniſh commander declared himſelf anſwerable for what they ſhould leave on the iſland. The time allowed them to remain at Port Egmont was to be determined by the governor; and for the greater ſecurity, the rudder was taken off from Captain Farmer's ſhip, and kept on ſhore till the appointed period; after which the frigate was permitted to depart, and in ſeventy days arrived at Portſmouth.

An inſult to the Britiſh flag, ſo audacious, ſeemed to render war inevitable, unleſs proper reparation was very ſpeedily made. It was accordingly mentioned in the ſpeech from the throne, November 13th, 1770; and an immediate demand of ſatisfaction for the injury was promiſed, and that the neceſſary preparations for war, which had been begun, ſhould not be diſcontinued. The affairs of America were alſo taken notice of, where grounds of complaint ſtill exiſted, notwithſtanding the ceſſation of thoſe combinations which had diſtreſſed the commerce of this country. Theſe promiſes, with regard to the affair of Falkland's Iſlands, however, were far from giving general ſatisfaction. The ſpeech, as the work of miniſtry, was moſt violently ly attacked by oppoſition; and an addreſs in anſwer to it, it was ſaid, would be an eulogium on miniſters who did not deſerve it. News had arrived, they ſaid, from Falkland's iſlands in June, which ſufficiently demonſtrated the deſigns of Spain; and Gibraltar and Minorca were left open to the attacks of that power, without any preparation being made on our part to reſiſt them. The whole conduct of the miniſtry was ſaid to be puſillanimous; and the love of peace, which was given out as the reaſon of their unwillingneſs to reſent the injury, was treated with contempt.

A motion was now made in both houſes for an inquiry into the conduct of the Spaniards on this occaſion, and that all the papers and letters relative to it ſhould be laid before parliament. The demand, however, was oppoſed by miniſtry, who inſiſted that the laws of negociation precluded the idea of expoſing any letters or papers ſent in confidence while the negociation was depending; and they aſſerted that the King of Spain had diſavowed the conduct of his officer, and promiſed ſatisfaction. It would have been raſh, they ſaid, to proceed to extremities betwixt the two crowns, when perhaps the officer only was to blame; but if, after remonſtrance, the court of Spain refuſed ſatisfaction, we were then authoriſed to force that juſtice which was refuſed in an amicable manner.

Some time before this, Mr. Harris, the Engliſh miniſter at the court of Madrid, diſpatched a letter to Lord Weymouth, informing him that a ſhip had arrived from Buenos Ayres with an account of the intended expedition againſt Port Egmont, the number of men to be employed, and the time fixed for its departure; at the ſame time that it was aſſerted by Prince Maſerans, the Spaniſh ambaſſador, that he had every reaſon to believe that the governor of Buenos Ayres had employed force at Port Egmont without any orders; and hoped that, by diſavowing this proceeding, he might prevent any miſunderſtanding betwixt the two kingdoms. To this his lordſhip replied in a ſpirited manner, mer, aſking, among other things, Whether the prince had any orders to diſavow the proceedings of the governor? And, on his reply in the negative, a formal diſavowal was demanded. After ſome time, his lordſhip was informed that the prince had orders to diſavow any particular orders given by Mr. Bucarelli, the governor of Buenos Ayres, and at the ſame time to ſay, that he had acted agreeably to his general inſtructions and oath as governor; that the iſland ſhould be reſtored; and that it was expected the King of Britain would, on his part, diſavow the conduct of Captain Hunt, whoſe menace had induced the governor to act as he did. This reply did not by any means prove agreeable; and ſoon after the conduct of the court of Spain became ſo ſuſpicious, that Mr. Harris was ordered to quit the court of Madrid; and the correſpondence between Prince Maſerans and the court of England was no longer continued. About this time Lord Weymouth reſigned his office, and was ſucceeded by the Earl of Rochford; and the affair of Falkland's iſlands was no longer openly ſpoken of.

On the ſitting down of the parliament, January 22d 1771, however, it was again brought before the houſe, and the declaration of the Spaniſh ambaſſador, with Rochford's acceptance, were announced. After the papers relative to this affair had been ſubmitted to the inſpection of both houſes, warm debates aroſe on the terms of the Spaniſh declaration, which the members of the oppoſition aſſerted to be inadequate and inſecure, becauſe though it contained an explicit diſavowal of the violence uſed at Port Egmont, and an engagement to reſtore every thing there preciſely to the ſtate in which it was before the 10th of June 1770, it ſtill left room for future diſputes, by adding "that his Catholic majeſty did not conſider this reſtitution as any wiſe affecting the queſtion concerning the prior right of ſovereignty of the iſlands." But addreſſes of thanks and approbation were concurred in by a majority of almoſt three to one in the lords, and of nearly two to one in the commons. They affirmed that the atonement made for the aggreſſion was as ample as could juſty be required; and that miniſters would have been in the higheſt degree reprehenſible, had they involved the nation in a war for the ſake of ſo inſignificant an object as the reſerved pretenſions of Spain to one or two barren ſpots under a ſtormy ſky in a diſtant quarter of the globe. The poſſibility of a ſimilar diſpute was wiſely precluded by the total evacuation of that ſettlement about three years after, according to a private agreement, as was ſuſpected, between the miniſtry and the court of Spain; but of this no evidence ever appeared to the public.

It is not indeed likely that Spain would have proceeded ſo far in the way of atonement, had France been able and willing to join her in the war. The weakneſs of the latter was, in all probability, one of the chief perſuaſives to conceſſion on the part of the former.

Every thing ſeemed now to promiſe the miniſtry both tranquillity and permanence. The ſtorm of faction had in a great meaſure ſpent its rage; and though ſome petty attempts were made to blow up once more the ſpirit of diſcontent, it ſoon ſubſided in a profound calm. A favourable harveſt; the flouriſhing ſtate of arts and commerce; an exemption from the calamities of war, peſtilence, and famine, which then laid waſte many other parts of Europe; in ſhort, the union of plenty, peace, ſecurity, and true liberty, could not but reconcile the people of England to a government under which they enjoyed ſo many bleſſings.—The only allay of this national happineſs was towards the end of the year, (1771,) in conſequence of very heavy rains which fell in November, and which occaſioned, particularly in the northern counties, a more terrible inundation than had been experienced there within the memory of man. A detail of its ravages would ſerve only to excite the moſt painful emotions. It is enough to ſay that Northumberland, Cumberland, and Weſtmoreland, exhibited for a few days nothing but ſcenes of diſtreſs and horror.—The uſual characteriſtic humanity of the Britiſh nation was exerted in affording relief to the ſufferers. But though ruined towns and villages were ſoon rebuilt, and the inhabitants ſupplied with every poſſible comfort; yet no efforts of tenderneſs or pity could reſtore to life the many families and individuals who had periſhed in the overwhelming floods.

One of the moſt extraordinary effects of thoſe heavy rains took place on the borders of Scotland, about ten miles north of Carliſle. A great part of Solway Moſs, to the extent of four or five hundred acres, began to ſwell by the inundation, and roſe to ſuch a height above the level, that at laſt it rolled forward, with irreſiſtible force, though not with the rapidity of a torrent, ſweeping along houſes, trees, and great numbers of ſheep and cattle that were ſuffocated in its courſe. It continued its ſlow motion for ſeveral days, and then dividing itſelf into a variety of little iſlands, from two to twelve or fifteen feet in depth, it totally changed the face of the country where it lodged, and gave to a large tract of once arable land all the appearance of a natural bog.

INDEX.

ABERCROMBY, Gen. appointed to ſucceed General Shirley in America, 67; arrives at Albany, 72.

AJAX, Indiaman, taken by the French, 316.

AIX taken from the French, 111; fortifications deſtroyed, 114.

ALCIDE and Lys, French men of war, taken, 24.

ALI KHAN conſpires with the Engliſh againſt his maſter, the viceroy of Bengal, 135; is by them made viceroy, or nabob, and puts his predeceſſor to death, 136.

AMERICA, North, tranſactions there, 14, 17, 25, 26-38, 67, 71-76, 119-123, 183-189, 216-228, 258-262, 392-407.

AMHERST, Gen. commands the forces againſt Louiſbourg, 184; reduces Montreal, 261; retakes St. John's, 375; his meaſures againſt the ſavages, 398, &c.

ANGRIA, his piracies, 83; his fort of Geriah taken by Adm. Watſon and Col. Clive, 86.

ANTIGALLICAN privateer takes the Pentheivre Indiaman, which is afterwards reſtored, 115.

APCHE', M. commands the French fleet in the Eaſt-Indies, 196; defeated by Admiral Pocock, 197, 199, 203.

ARCOT reduced by Colonel Coote, 202.

BARRINGTON, Hon. Capt. in the Achilles, takes the Comte St. Florentin, 240.

BATTLES.—Of Koveripauk, 10; of Volconda, 11; of Syrinham, 12; off Cape Race, 24; in North America, 29, 34, 73, 120, 184, 188, 222, 254, 401, 404; off Minorca, 54; of Lowoſchutz, 92; of Plaſſey, 135; of Prague, 141; of Kolin, 142; of Haſtenbeck, 143; of Norkitten, 144; of Roſbach and Breſlau, 145; of Leuthen, 146; of Zorndorff, or Cuſtrin, 151; of Hochkirchen, 153; of Crevelt, 157; off Hiſpaniola, 159; off Carthagena, 163; at St. Cas, 182; between Pocock and d'Apché in the Eaſt-Indies, 196, 199, 203; of Wandewaſh, 202; of Quebec, 222; off the Straits between Boſcawen and La Clue, 231; off Belleiſle between Hawke and Conflans, 233; of Minden, 243; of Zulichau, 248; of Cunnerſdorf, 249; before Quebec, 259; of Corbach, 270; of Ziegenhaen, and Warburgh, 271; of Campen, 272; of Schermbeck, and Schaken, 273; of Landſhut, 276; of Lignitz, 278; of Torgau; 282; between Major Carnac and the Great Mogul, which annihilates the French power in India, 311; of Graevenſteen, 331; near Dreſden between the Pruſſians and Auſtrians, 338; in the Weſt-Indies, 340, 352; of Ballaſara in the Eaſt-Indies, 421; at the Nuncar Nullas, 423; at Buxar, 425.

BELL, Mr. his gallant defence of Cape Coaſt caſtle, 124.

BELLEISLE expedition, 298; the place taken, 301.

BERLIN laid under contribution by the Auſtrians, 144.

BEVERN, Prince of, defeated near Breſlau, and taken, 145.

BIDDEFORD and Grafton, ſhips of war, loſt, 316.

BLAKENEY, Gen. remonſtrates concerning the ſtate of St. Philip's caſtle, 49; his defence and ſurrender, 59-64; is created a baron, 66.

BLIGH, Gen. commands a body of troops to annoy the French coaſt, 177; operations at Querqueville and Cherbourg, 178; at St. Maloes, 180; and St. Cas, 181.

BOSCAWEN, Admiral, commands in North America, 22, 162; attacks Louiſbourg, 184; defeats La Clue, 231.

BOUQUET, Col. marches to relieve fort Pitt, 400; diſtreſſed ſituation, 402; ſucceſs, 405; forces the tribes of Indians to ſue for peace, 407.

BOYES, Commodore, ſent to oppoſe Thurot off Dunkirk, 229, 233.

BRADDOCK's unfortunate expedition, 27.

BRADSTREET, Colonel, repulſes a body of French on the river Onondego, 73; makes the Indians ſue for peace, 406.

BRESLAU taken by the Auſtrians, 146; recovered by the Pruſſians, 148

BROWN, Count, the Auſtrian general, fights the King of Pruſſia at Lowoſchutz, 92;

92; attempts a junction with the Saxon army, 94; defeated near Prague, and dies ſoon after, 141.

BRODERIC, Rear-adm. his narrow eſcape from the wreck of the Prince George, 166.

BRILLIANT and Duke of York, privateers, take a Spaniſh fort, 379.

BUENOS Ayres, unſucceſsful expedition to that place at the concluſion of the war, 381.

BYNG, Adm. commands ten ſhips for the relief of Minorca, 50; arrives at Gibraltar, 51; his letters from that place, 52; ſails, and meets the French fleet, 53; the action, 54; returns to Gibraltar, and is ſuperſeded, 56; ſent home under arreſt, 58; his trial, 102; ſentence, 104; execution, 107.

CALCUTTA beſieged by the viceroy of Bengal, 77; taken, and the garriſon confined in the black-hole, 78; retaken by the Engliſh, 129.

CANADA, diſcovered and ſettled by the French, 95; how divided after it came into the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, 393; attacked by the Indians, 395.

CAPE-COAST caſtle, fruitleſsly attacked by the French, 124.

CARNAC, Major, finiſhes the war in India, in 1761, 311; commands there in 1765, 427.

CARKET, Lieut. of the Monmouth, takes the Foudroyant, 163; (Capt.) his bold exploit in Tiberon-bay, 380.

CATHARINE II. empreſs of Ruſſia upon the depoſition of her huſband; her conduct towards the King of Pruſſia, 336; how ſituated at the peace, 387.

CHANDERNAGORE taken by the Engliſh, 131.

CHARLES, hereditary Prince of Brunſwick, reduces Minden, 156; diſtinguiſhes himſelf greatly at the battle of Crevelt under his uncle, 157; worſted at Corbach, 270; retrieves his honour at Ziegenhagen, Warburgh, and Zierenburgh, 271; and at Schermbeck, 273; retakes Wolfenbuttle, and drives the French out of Hanover, 318; wounded in the affair of Iſpaniſbourg, 332.

CLIVE, Colonel, his firſt exploits in the Eaſt-Indies, 8; takes Arcot, and dedefends it, 9; defeats the French, and takes their whole army, 10; takes three forts, 11, 13; viſits England, 77; aſſiſts at the reduction of fort Geriah, 85; farther operations, 87; takes Buſbudgia, 125; aſſiſts in retaking Calcutta; 129; defeats the nabob of Bengal, 130; aſſiſts in the reduction of Chanderpagore, 131; defeats the nabob a ſecond time, and concurs in depoſing him 135; oppoſes the Dutch, 208; (Lord,) appointed dictator in India, 429; conludes a treaty with the nabob of Oude, 431; his military regulations, 432.

COLBERG taken by the Ruſſians, 220.

COLVILLE, Lord, commands the fleet againſt Montreal, 258.

COOTE, Colonel, aſſiſts in the reduction of Calcutta, 131; takes Wandewaſh, 201; defeats Lally, and reduces Arcot, 202; blockades Pondicherry, 306; which he takes, 311.

CORN, regulations concerning, 97; conſequences of engroſſing, 117.

COTES, Adm. captures nine French ſhips, 192.

CUMBERLAND, Duke of, ſigns the capitulation of Cloſterſeven, 143; his death, 416.

CUNNINGHAM, Major, his patriotiſm, 49; wounded, 50, 62.

DAMIEN attempts the life of the French king, 137; is put to death in a moſt cruel manner, 138.

DAUN, Count, defeats the King of Pruſſia at Kolin, 142; defeats the Prince of Bevern near Breſlau, 145; takes the town, 146; is worſted at Leuthen, 147; follows the Pruſſian army, and obliges the king to raiſe the ſiege of Olmutz, 149; takes Sonneſtein in Saxony, 152; routs the King of Pruſſia at Hochkirchen; 154; ſurrounds and takes 12,000 Pruſſians under Gen. Fincke, 251; relieves Dreſden, 277; part of his army defeated by the King of Pruſſia, 279; abandons the blockade of Schweidnitz, 280; defeated and wounded at Torgau, 283.

DEATH, Capt. his deſperate valour, 116.

DENMARK and Sweden, how ſituated at the time of the peace, 388.

DETROIT fort, repulſe of the Britiſh troops there, 398.

DOLPHIN ſhip, diſtreſs of at ſea, 251.

DOUGLAS, Capt. James, brings home the news of the conqueſt of Quebec, and is knighted, 227; (Sir James,) commands on the Leeward iſland ſtation, 265; reduces Dominica, 301.

DRAPER, Colonel, defends Madras, 200; plans the Manilla expedition, 367; its ſucceſs, 358-372; created a Knight of the Bath, 372; defends his conduct relative to the Manilla ranſom, 373.

DUPLEIX, M. his proceedings in the Eaſt-Indies, 5, 12, 13; recalled 13.

EAST-INDIA affairs, 4-14, 76-87, 125-136, 195-207, 303-312, 417-436; Meer Coſſim endeavours to ſhake off the company's yoke, 417; his treaty with Mr. Vanſittart, 419; diſavowed by the council at Calcutta, who proclaim the nabob, Meer Jaffier, whom they had formerly depoſed, and attack the city of Patna, 420; the Engliſh at firſt ſucceſsful, but afterwards defeated, 421; battle of Ballaſara, 422; at the Nuncas Nullas, 423; Mongheer ſurrenders, 423; and Patna, 424; Coſſim's cruelty, ibid. Bengal completely conquered in four months, 425; battle of Buxar, ibid. appointment of a ſelect committee at Bengal, 428; profitable terms obtained by the company, 432; war with Hyder Ali, 433.

ELLIOT, Capt. in the Eolus, takes la Mignonne, 239; defeats Thurot, 257; cuts out a brig from Quiberon-bay, 269.

ELPHINGTON, Capt. of the Richmond, his action with a French frigate, 312.

ESTAING, Count d', taken priſoner before Madras, 200; takes Gombroon from the India company, 303.

FALKLAND Iſlands, their firſt ſettlement, 436; diſputes relating to them between the Engliſh and Spaniards, 437; amicably adjuſted, 440.

FAULKNER, Capt. in the Windſor, takes the Duc de Chartres, 240; in the Bellona, with Logie of the Brilliant, their bravery and generoſity, 314.

FERDINAND prince of Brunſwick takes the command of the allied army in Engliſh pay, 148; defeats the French at Crevelt, and takes Duſſeldorp, 157; is reinforced by the Britiſh under the Duke of Marlborough, 158; defeats M. Contades at Minden, 244; makes an unſucceſsful attempt on Gottingen, 274; retreats from Caſſel, 316; routs the French at Graevenſteen, 331; takes Caſſel, 332; news of peace reaches him at the attack of Ziegenhayn, 333.

FLETCHER, Sir Robert, takes the fort of Chanda Geer, which had been unſucceſsfully attacked by Major Munro, 427.

FORREST, Captain Arthur, his extraordinary bravery and ſucceſs in the Weſt-Indies 159.

FOWKE, Gen. governor of Gibraltar, receives two letters from the war-office, 51; ſuperſeded by Lord Tyrawley 57; tried, 68; diſmiſſed the ſervice, 71.

FREDERIC II. king of Pruſſia, makes a treaty with the King of England, 88; invades Saxony, and publiſhes a manifeſto, 89; enters Dreſden, and blocks up the King of Poland and his troops at Pirna, 90, 91; invades Bohemia, 92; defeats Count Brown at Lowoſchutz, 93; makes the Saxon army at Pirna priſoners of war, 94; put under the ban of the empire, 140; defeats the Auſtrians near Prague, which he bombards, 141; defeated at Kolin, and raiſes the ſiege of Prague, 142; gains the battle of Roſbach, 145; beats the Auſtrians at Leuthen, 146; retakes Breſlau, 148; retakes Schweidnitz, and inveſts Olmutz, 149; quits Olmutz, and retires into Bohemia; 150; defeats the Ruſſians at Zorndorff near Cuſtrin, 151; is ſurpriſed and defeated at Hochkirchen, 152; his army under Wedel defeated by the Ruſſians at Zulichau, 248; himſelf defeated by the Ruſſians and Auſtrians at Cunnerſdorf, 249; two of his generals, and their armies, taken, 251; his forces defeated at Landſhut, 276; he makes an unſucceſsful attempt on Dreſden, 277; gains a victory over General Laudohn, 278; worſts General Beck, 280; his capital of Berlin taken by the Auſtrians and Ruſſians, 280; attacks Count Daun at Torgau, 282; makes a treaty of peace and alliance with Ruſſia, 334; his armies now ſucceſsful againſt the Auſtrians, 335; the revolution in Ruſſia deprives him of an ally, 336; retakes Schweidnitz, 337; defeats the Auſtrians in Saxony, and makes peace with the empreſs-queen, 338; how ſituated at the general peace, 389.

George II. enters into a treaty with Ruſſia for the defence of his German dominions, 39; and with Pruſſia 44; demands the ſtipulated troops from the Dutch, but gives it up, 47; declares war againſt France, 67; makes a treaty with Pruſſia for the defence of Hanover, 88; his ſpeech at the opening of the parliament, 96; offers peace to France, 253; his death and character, 284; ſtate of commerce at this time, 286; of literature, &c. 287.

George III. 292; marriage and coronation, 297; calls a free parliament, 322; declares war againſt Spain, 325; his noble behaviour towards that nation, 326; makes a general peace, 383.

Gilchrist, Capt. in company with Capt. Hotham, takes the Danaë, 240.

Goree taken from the French, 189; reſtored, 386.

Grenville, Mr. his plans for prevention of ſmuggling, 411; and for the purchaſe of the Iſle of Man, 412.

Guadaloupe, and four other iſlands, taken from the French, 212-215; reſtored at the peace of 1763, 386.

Haddick, Gen. lays Berlin under contribution, 144.

Halket, Sir Peter, an officer under Braddock, 29; killed 30.

Havannah reduced, 344-356; reſtored to the Spaniards at the peace, 385.

Hawke, Sir Edw. ſent to ſuperſede Adm. Byng in the Meditenanean, 56; arrives at Minorca after its ſurrender, 64; his operations in the Mediterranean, 65, 66; forces a French fleet aſhore, &c. 164; beat M. Conflans off Belleiſle, 234.

Hermione regiſter-ſhip taken by the Active and Favourite frigate, 374.

Hervey, Capt. deſtroys a French ſhip of war, 194.

Holborne, Admiral, ſent to reinforce Boſcawen in North America, 22, 25; arrives at Halifax, 119; takes two trips to Louiſbourg, where he meets with a dreadful ſtorm, and then returns to England, 123.

Holmes, Admiral, engages a French ſquadron, 76; commands in the Weſt-Indies, 262; takes the St. Anne, 302.

Holwell, Mr. his defence of Calcutta, and the cruel uſage himſelf and garriſon experienced, 78.

Hood, Capt. of the Veſtal, takes the Bellona, 239; of the Minerva, takes a two-decker and a privateer from the French, 313.

Hopson, General, commands the forces for the Weſt-Indies, 210; attacks Martinico, 211; and Guadaloupe, 212; dies, 213.

Howe, Captain, in the Dunkirk, ſhews his ſkill and bravery at the breaking out of the war in 1755, 24; (Commodore,) commands a fleet for an attack on the French coaſt, 169; ſails through the Race of Alderney, 170; in the Magnanime, takes the Heros, 235; (Lord,) takes the iſland of Dumet, 266.

Hunt, Capt. of the Unicorn, takes the Veſtale, 312.

Hyder Ali, his obſcure origin but ſhining talents, 433; makes a treaty with the Eaſt-India company, 436.

James, Commodore, ſent with Admiral Watſon to attack Angria the pirate, 83; takes a French Indiaman, 130.

Indian war between the French and Engliſh companies, 5-14.

Inundation, an extraordinary one, 441; its effects at Solway-moſs, in Scotland, 442.

Johnson, Gen. Sir Wm. commands the expedition againſt Crown Point, 32; encamps at Lake George, ibid. where he is attacked by the French, 34; and defeats them, 35; he retreats ibid. rewarded, 36; makes a treaty with the Seneca Indians, 406.

Keith, Marſhal, leads the Pruſſian army into Bohemia, 92; his gallantry in the battle of Lowoſchutz, 93; killed at the battle of Hochkirchen, 154.

Kennedy and Skinner, Captains, engage two French frigates, 267; Kennedy takes the Bertin, a French Indiaman, 376.

Keppel, Commodore, takes Goree, 189; commands the fleet againſt Belleiſle, 298; covers the landing of the troops at the Havannah, 347; takes a fleet of French merchantmen, 380.

Lally, Gen. French governor-general in India, 196; takes fort St. David, 197;

197; attacks Tanjour, 199; beſieges Madras, 200; raiſes the ſiege, 201; defeated by General Coote, 202; his letter from Pondicherry, 309;

Laudohn, Gen. appointed to command the Britiſh forces in America, 67; arrives too late to do any thing, 75; ditto repeated the next year, 119;

Laurence, Governor, defeats the French neutrals in America, 26.

Lawrence, Major, detached to the aſſiſtance of Mohommed Ali Khan, nabob of Arcot, 7, 10; obtains advantages over the French, 11, 12.

Lehwald, the Pruſſian general, worſted at Norkitten, 144; forces the Swedes to retire from the Pruſſian territories, 148.

Lisbon deſtroyed by an earthquake, 42.

Litchfield, of 50 guns, wrecked on the coaſt of Morocco, 191.

Lively frigate and two more, deſtroy five French frigates in the W. I. 263.

Lochart, Captain, takes ſeveral privateers from the French, 117.

Louisbourg, fruitleſs attempt on, 123; taken by Boſcawen and Amherſt, 184; fortifications deſtroyed, 262.

M'Bride, Mr. takes a privateer out of Dunkirk road with boats only, 314.

Mac Ginnes, Capt. his bravery and death, 35.

Malo, St. attacked by the Engliſh, 170.

Man, Iſle of, purchaſed by the crown, 412.

Manillas, expedition againſt, 357-374; ranſom agreed on, 370; payment refuſed by Spain, 372.

Marine Society, its inſtitution, 66.

Marlborough (Spencer) Duke of, his expedition againſt St. Malo, 169; appointed to command the Britiſh troops in Germany, 177; dies at Munſter, 158.

Martinico attacked by Commodore Moore and General Hopſon, 210; reduced by Adm. Rodney and Gen. Monckton, 339; reſtored at the peace, 386.

Mead, Capt. in the Fowey, takes La Ventura Spaniſh frigate, 379.

Minerve, French frigate, wrecked, 378.

Minorca; ſtate of it at the breaking out of the war, 49; invaded by the French 51; ſurrenders, 64; inquiry relating to that tranſaction, 98.

Monckton, Colonel, commands a detachment in Nova Scotia, and reduces the French fort of Beauſéjour, 26; (Brigadier,) drives the French from Point Levi, 218; wounded before Quebec, 223; (Major-general,) reduces Martinico, 339.

Montcalm takes fort William Henry from the Engliſh, 121; the articles of ſurrender infringed, 122; commands at Quebec, 217; killed, 225.

Moore, Commodore, attacks Martinico, 210; reduces Guadaloupe, 212; alſo Mariegalante and three other ſmall iſlands, 215.

Munro, Major, gains the battle of Buxar, 425.

Munster taken by Gen. Imhoff, 247.

Murray, Gen. commands under Amherſt in America, 258; defends Quebec againſt the French, 259; aſſiſts in the reduction of Montreal, 261.

Navy, ſtate of in 1755, 41.

Nightingale, Capt. of the Vengeance, takes the Entreprenant, 313.

Nova Scotia, diſputes about its boundaries, 4.

O'Brien and Taylor, Capts. their exploit in Petit Havre bay, 265.

Onslow, Mr. reſigns the ſpeakerſhip, and receives a penſion, 296.

Ontario and Oſwego forts taken by the French, 75.

Osborne, Adm. defeats the French off Carthagena, 162.

Ourry, Capt. in the Actæon, deſtroys a large privateer, 267; takes a Spaniſh regiſter-ſhip, 380.

Parker, Capt. of the Panther, takes the Santiſſima Trinidada, 371.

Parker, Colonel, defeated by the French and Indians at Ticonderoga, 120.

Peace of the year 1763, 382; the conditions, 363; ſtate of the European powers, 386-392.

Peter III. emperor of Ruſſia, forms an alliance with the King of Pruſſia, 334; his depoſition and death, 336.

Pitt, William, his bill for the relief of Chelſea penſioners, 21; propoſes war with Spain, and reſigns, 321; his laudable conduct afterwards, 323.

Pitt fort blockaded, 400; its relief attempted, 401; accompliſhed, 405.

POCOCK, Admiral, aſſiſts in the reduction of Chandernagore; 131; ſucceeds to the chief command on the death of Watſon, 196; defeats the French fleet under d'Apché, 197; a ſecond time, 199; a third time, 203; commands the expedition againſt the Havannah, 344.

PONDICHERRY taken from the French, 305-311.

PORTUGAL attacked by France and Spain, 327; who take ſeveral places, 328; but are at length driven out by the Engliſh, 329, 330.

PRAGUE inveſted and bombarded by the King of Pruſſia, 141; ſiege raiſed, 142.

PRINCE George, of 80 guns, burnt at ſea, 500 men periſhed, 166.

QUEBEC, attacked by Gen. Wolfe and Adm. Saunders, 218; taken, 228; its boundaries, 393.

RAJAH al Dowlah, viceroy of Bengal, attacks Calcutta, 77; which he takes, and confines the garriſon in the black-hole, 78; releaſes Mr. Holwell without ranſom, 82; loſes Calcutta and Hughley, 129; is defeated by Clive, 130, 135; depoſed and put to death, 136.

RAMILLIES, and two other ſhips, loſt, 269.

READ, Capt. of the Prince George, takes a French Indiaman, 314.

ROCHFORT, fruitleſs attempt upon, 111-114.

RODNEY, Rear-adm. bombards Havre, 229; deſtroys ſome boats there, 267; attacks Martinico, 339.

SAINT JOHN's in Newfoundland taken by the French, and re-taken by Sir J. Amherſt, 375.

SAUMAREZ, Capt. of the Antelope, takes a French privateer, 117; takes the Belliqueux, without fighting, 195.

SCHWEIDNITZ taken by the Auſtrians, 145; the garriſon eſcape, 146; the place re-taken, 149; taken again by Laudohn, 319; recovered by the King of Pruſſia, 337; near 8000 men drowned, ibid.

SCHWERIN, Marſhal, killed at the battle of Prague, 141.

SENEGAL taken from the French, 166; the conqueſt completed by the reduction of Goree, 189.

SHIRLEY, Governor, appointed to the command of a regiment, 20; his ſon killed, 30; ſucceeds to the command on the death of Braddock, 31; commands the expedition againſt Niagara, 32, 36; arrives at Oſwego, 37; orders two forts to be begun, and then returns to Albany, 38; is ſucceeded by Gen. Abercrombie, 67.

SILK-weavers, inſurrection of, 414; ſuppreſſed, and a bill paſſed in their favour, 415.

SKINNER, Capt. of the Biddeford, killed, 268.

SPRY, Captain, takes two French ſhips, 76.

STEVENS, Admiral, commands the fleet before Pondicherry, 306.

STRAHAN, a common ſailor, extraordinary action of his, 127.

SURAT taken by the Engliſh, 202.

THUROT, his expedition from Dunkirk, 228; ſpreads great alarm in Scotland and Ireland, 254; lands at Carrickfergus, takes the caſtle, &c. 256; defeated by ſea, and killed, 257.

TURK's Iſland, extraordinary and unexpected invaſion of, 410; diſavowed by the French miniſtry, 411.

TYRREL, Captain, deſtroys the Grand Ance, 192; engages the Floriſſant, and two frigates, 193.

WASHINGTON, detached from Virginia againſt the French, 18.

WATSON, Adm. takes the fort of Geriah, in the Eaſt-Indies, 86; ſcene with Angria's wife and children, ibid. retakes Calcutta 131; his death, 136.

WEBB, General, his operations in America, 74.

WEST, Adm. his character, 50; his behaviour in the action with Galiſſoniere, 54; ſuperſeded 56; but graciouſly received, 58.

WOLFE, Gen. inſtrumental in the reduction of Louiſbourg, 184; his operations againſt Quebec, 216-224; his death, 224.

WRIGHT, Fortunatus, his gallantry, 65; death, 66.

END OF THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

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